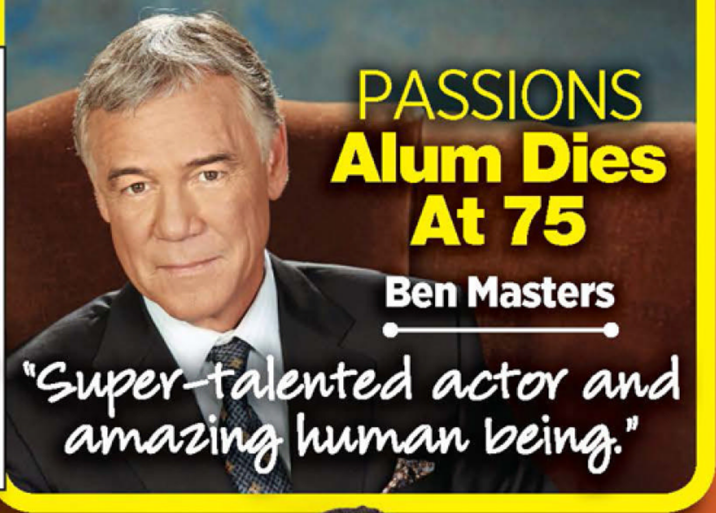
soap OPERA digest



PASSIONS Alum Dies At 75

Ben Masters

"Super-talented actor and amazing human being."

B&B *Sheila And Taylor Showdown!*

DAYS *Gabi's Desperate Move*

Y&R *Victoria And Nate Kiss!*

BIG SPOILER ALERTS!

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

$6.99US $7.99CAN

06>

7 25274 40543 5

A360 MEDIA

Louise Sorel

DAYS Casting Surprise!

VIVIAN RETURNS!

VISIT…

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

Introducing the lightest folding power chair in the world

The Journey Air Elite features the latest carbon fiber technology for the ultimate in portability and performance

NEW
ONLY 26 POUNDS!

Mobility issues affect over 1 in 5 Americans. These individuals, and their loved ones, know how decreased mobility can result in loss of independence, pain and falling hazards. They are often stuck at home, missing out on a variety of activities, in a vicious cycle that diminishes their quality of life. In the past, mobility devices like scooters and power chairs were too heavy and bulky to transport easily. Now, carbon fiber material invented for the aerospace program has been used to create the ultimate mobility device. It's called the Journey Air Elite … and there's nothing else like it on earth.

Folds flat in seconds

At only 26 pounds, the Journey Air Elite combines lightweight portability with world class performance. Its simple to use joystick and powerful dual-motor drive system enables you to zip around quickly and safely. It's easy to maneuver, never tips, fits easily through doorways, and can go right up to a table or desk. Once you are done, just one pull on the seat handle folds it up. There's a fold-down back to make it even easier to stow and store.

It features flat-free tires and rear anti-tippers for added convenience and safety.

Just imagine how this chair can improve your life and make it easier for loved ones and caregivers to accompany you to activities and events you would have missed in the past. Don't spend another day stuck at home. Call today, and a helpful, knowledgeable consultant will help you get a Journey Air Elite of your very own. Don't wait – call now!

journey air ELITE

Call toll-free now

1-888-508-0107

Please mention code 117714.

enjoying life never gets old™

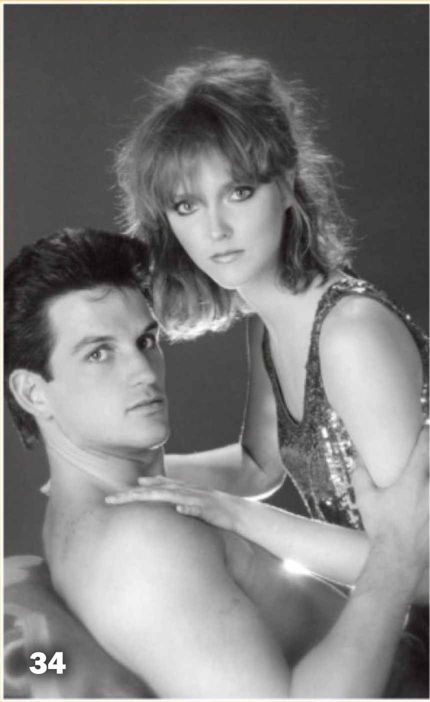
journey™ HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

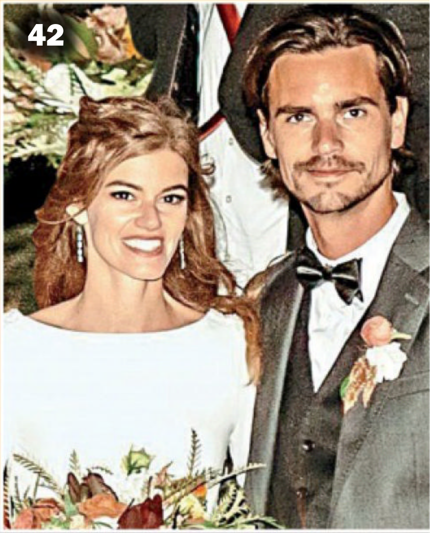
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS Rating of A+

Journey Air Elite is personal electric vehicle and is a not medical device nor wheelchair. It is not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. Journey Air Elite is not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2023 Journey Health and Lifestyle

87001

contents





news

4 Late-Breaking News
11 Early Editions!
12 Comings And Goings
14 Hot Plots Preview
16 1st Look Photos
20 Extra! Extra!
22 Record This
58 Synopses

features

18 Behind The Scenes
Stars' snaps of life on set.

34 This Week In Soap History
Memorable moments from daytime's past.

42 DAYS's ex-Chelsea
Rachel Melvin opens up about her nuptial nightmare.

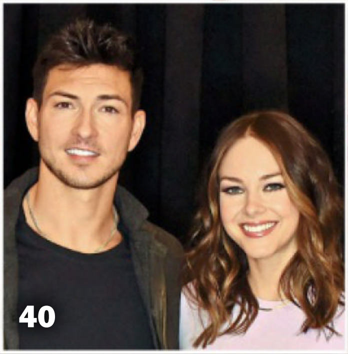
48 Inmating Season
Four soap jailbirds dish about (fictional) prison life.

February 6, 2023. Vol. 48, No. 6.
Next issue: February 13, 2023 will be on sale February 6, 2023.

contents

can't-miss quote

"Brooke is coming into her own." 30



reader favorites

24 **Thumbs/ Performers Of The Week**

28 **It's Only My Opinion**

36 **Roundup**
What other soap character would you love/have loved to play?

40 **Scene & Heard**

46 **Classic Lines**

interview

30 **B&B's Brooke**
Katherine Kelly Lang weighs in on her alter ego.

columns

26 **Editor's Note**

38 **Crossword Puzzle**

39 **Sudoku**

56 **Calendar**

66 **Ask Us**

68 **Sound Off**

72 **Take Five**

COVER CREDITS: Kimberlin Brown (Sheila, B&B). Photo: Lesley Bohm. Krista Allen (Taylor, B&B). Photo: Gilles Toucas/Courtesy of Bell-Phillip Television Inc. Camila Banus (Gabi, DAYS). Photo: Howard Wise/Peacock. Sean Dominic and Amelia Heinle (Nate and Victoria, Y&R). Photos: Howard Wise/JPI. Louise Sorel (Vivian, DAYS). Photo: XJ Johnson/JPI. Ben Masters (ex-Julian, PASSIONS). Photo: Paul Skipper/JPI.

A Beautiful Expression of Everlasting Faith

Over 40 Sparkling Crystals

Mother of Pearl Watch Face

Comfort Stretch Stainless Steel Band Fits Most Wrists

Filigree Heart Design on Band

Here's a wonderfully spiritual way to express the light and love that God brings to your life—at any time of day. This silver-toned watch features a gleaming Mother of Pearl watch face with a stunning cross formed of beautiful blue crystals. A halo of dazzling white crystals surround the face - over 40 crystals in all. The stainless steel case back is etched with the message, *"With God, All Things Are Possible"* and the stretch band comfortably fits most wrists. This quality timepiece has a precision quartz movement, quartz mineral lens, and is water resistant to 3 ATM.

A Remarkable Value

This inspirational watch is a remarkable value at $99.99*, payable in 3 easy installments of $33.33. It is backed by our 120-day guarantee and a limited warranty and arrives in a custom presentation case with a Certificate of Authenticity. To reserve, send no money now; just mail in the Priority Reservation today!

With God
All Things
Are
Possible
Precision Quartz Movement
©BGE

Etched with inspirational entiment on case back

Heavenly Grace

CRYSTAL WATCH

Order Today at bradfordexchange.com/27799

©2023 The Bradford Exchange
01-27799-001-DIM1

Connect with Us!

Uniquely Designed. Exclusively Yours.

The Bradford Exchange
Since 1973

LIMITED-TIME OFFER

The Bradford Exchange

9333 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60714-1393

SEND NO MONEY NOW

PRIORITY RESERVATION

Yes! Please reserve the *"Heavenly Grace" Crystal Watch* for me as described in this announcement.

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address

City State Zip

E-mail

01-27799-001-E97801

*Plus a total of $9.98 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com).
Please allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment.
Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

late-breaking news

hot off the press

6 ***B&B: Sheila/ Taylor Showdown***

7 ***Y&R: Victoria And Nate Kiss***

8 ***GH: Stella Gets Suspicious***

9 ***DAYS: Gabi's Desperate Move***

10 ***GH Execs On State Of The Soap***

12 ***DAYS: Vivian's Surprise Return***

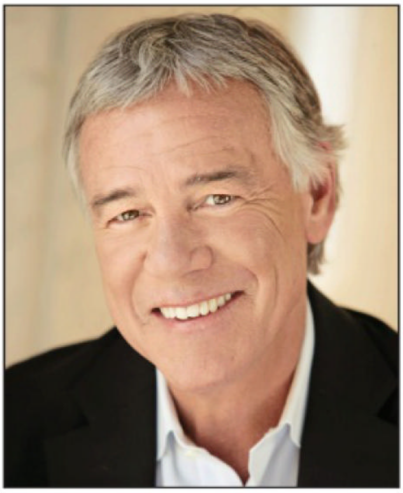
XJ JOHNSON/JPI

BEN MASTERS DIES AT 75

Ben Masters (ex-Julian, PASSIONS et al) passed away at the age of 75 on January 11 at Eisenhower Health Center in Rancho Mirage, CA. The actor battled dementia for a number of years, but ultimately passed away from complications due to Covid.

Masters, who hailed from Corvallis, OR, earned a B.A. degree in Theater from the University of Oregon and moved to New York City, where he starred on and off-Broadway in shows including *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, alongside Ingrid Bergman, and *The Cherry Orchard*, alongside Meryl Streep. Throughout the '70s, '80s and '90s, Masters starred in numerous miniseries and television shows, including KOJAK, KUNG FU: THE LEGEND CONTINUES and WALKER: TEXAS RANGER, among others.

Masters was most well-known to soap fans for portraying Julian Crane on PASSIONS from 1999-2008, which was his final role. Masters is survived by his sister Cheryl Lerner, nieces Hannah and Clea Lerner of Los Angeles, and numerous friends and colleagues.

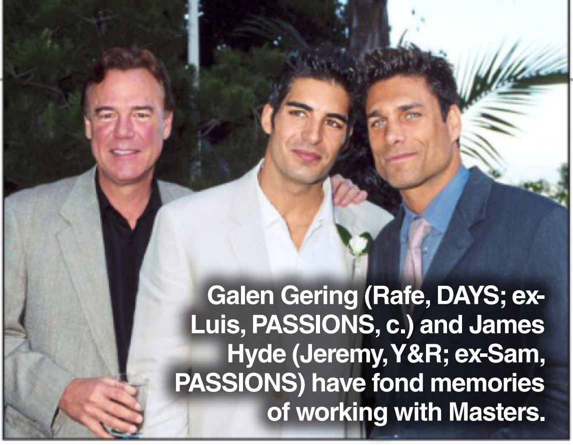


PHOTOS: JOHN PASCHAL/JPI

Former co-stars shared memories with *Digest*.

Galen Gering (Rafe, DAYS; ex-Luis, PASSIONS): "From day one, Ben took me under his wing. It meant so much to me, especially considering our characters had an adversarial relationship. But we had a bond. A friendship. He was just so cool and calming and was an incredible actor. He could take these outlandish scenes and somehow give them a foundation and deliver spellbinding, honest work. It was magic. And his voice. Man, he had the best voice, like gravel butter. As a cast, we loved Ben and yet feared him devouring us in scenes. I'm so thankful for those memories. He will be missed. Rest in power, Ben."

James Hyde (Jeremy, Y&R; ex-Sam, PASSIONS): "Ben



Galen Gering (Rafe, DAYS; ex-Luis, PASSIONS, c.) and James Hyde (Jeremy, Y&R; ex-Sam, PASSIONS) have fond memories of working with Masters.

Masters was truly an amazing actor and a lot of fun to work with and to watch portray his character. He showed us how to play and be outrageous but totally committed, and that showed us at PASSIONS not to take ourselves too seriously; remember we're doing PASSIONS, it was a different soap opera. He was so generous and always made himself available. I was able to see him outside of work, we got to play a lot of golf but after the show it seemed he cut off the line of communication so we would always ask, 'Has anyone heard from Ben?' I think in true Ben Masters [style], that's exactly the way he wanted it. Super-talented actor and amazing human being."

Eric Martsolf (Brady, DAYS; ex-Ethan, PASSIONS): "On one particular shooting day at PASSIONS, I recall having a tough time wrapping myself around the general lunacy of my love triangle at the time. I recall voicing my frustration to Ben and his response was, 'Son ... stop reading the script so carefully. Read your paycheck.' His sense of humor was stellar and one of a kind, and he was definitely my kind of guy."

Richard Steinmetz (ex-Martin): "Ben was a wonderful man and a good friend. What I remember most about him is when I bought my first boat, I didn't know squat about boat ownership. He was a master of the sea and explained to me many different nuances and things about owning the boat. Especially a boat in salt water. Not a lake boat. We would hang out by the marina and I would visit him on his boat now and then. I listened to them all, but then I didn't take all of his advice and I ended up paying the price for every one of those mistakes. And that's another thing he told me: It will be a very expensive hobby, owning a boat. He helped me in many ways and I will always be very appreciative of that. He was a good man, easy to talk to, and always listened."

PASSIONS actors who worked with Masters posted messages on social media, as well.

Lindsay Hartley (ex-Theresa): "It took me a minute to post about Ben. It was the pain that prevented me from posting earlier. Ben Masters was an extraordinary human. So talented, so witty, such a pleasure to be around and such a gift to work alongside. My favorite memory is this: if any of you watched PASSIONS, the character I played did a lot of questionable things and there were times I would be stressed or anxious playing her because of it. One day on set, I was in a scene with Ben and he picked up on my anxiousness and inquired. I told him my concern and [he] looked at me so empathetically and with a gentle smile said, 'If it's love, is it wrong?' And this huge relief washed over me. He understood and just had that power to make you feel better. He was so aware... As you can see from the picture, we went to hell and back... but I felt completely safe for the whole ride. So many love you Ben. You are in our hearts."

Liza Huber (ex-Gwen): "Heartbroken to learn that Ben passed away. Ben played my father-in-law, Julian Crane, on PASSIONS and was a true gem of a human. Ben had a heart of gold and a wicked sense of humor. We had a million laughs over the years. I have so many wonderful memories of Ben from our PASSIONS days. From our first show in 1999 to our last in 2008, he was a force who will be greatly missed and never forgotten."

Donn Swaby (ex-Chad): "Ben was a first-rate professional actor, a ridiculously talented scene-stealer and just a really nice guy. I am honored and blessed to have known him. Praying for his family."

B&B: TAYLOR/SHEILA SHOWDOWN

The Same, But Different: Taylor (Allen, l.) finds common ground with Sheila (Kimberlin Brown).

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

■ Fed up with Bill's blackmail, Taylor confesses to Katie that she shot Bill in 2018, then confronts Sheila. "Taylor does not want her family in danger," explains portrayer Krista Allen. "She is not going to let that happen. But, we are coming to a turning point. She wants to make it right and she is the only one who can."

The women rehash the circumstances surrounding the shooting, which gets Taylor's mind reeling. "Sheila comes to visit Taylor and she gets in her head," recounts Allen. "Taylor seems very strong. She wants peace and harmony, and then Sheila says, 'We both shot somebody.' And there is something that happens inside of Taylor in that moment. That's when Taylor starts to question what happened to her. Is there something bad inside of her? Could Sheila be right? Has she been living a lie this whole time? And so that is what is going through Taylor's head. I think it is a buildup of the fact that Taylor thought she'd buried this and it was gone. She tried to move past it, but now it is coming up. And it is not just coming up but it is affecting her family. Taylor fears that she may not be that different than Sheila."

> *"Taylor fears that she may not be that different than Sheila."*

A distraught Taylor turns to Brooke, who pulls Taylor from a dark place, and reminds her of their friendship. "There is something interesting about Brooke because if this had happened but a couple of months ago, it would have been rubbed in her face in such a bad way," points out Allen. "It would have been used against her, and Brooke is not doing any of those things. She is reminding Taylor that she is not like Sheila. She is reminding her that it was an accident and, 'It just wasn't you, Taylor.' Brooke is making very big efforts to show that she is a friend and Taylor has a very big heart. Brooke is showing up for Taylor."

As is Steffy. "Taylor admires the strength that Steffy has so much," says the actress. "She loves that her daughter is there for her and that support means everything to Taylor."

Y&R: VICTORIA AND NATE KISS

Boss Buss: Victoria (Heinle) gives Nate (Sean Dominic) a great performance review.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

While Nate is burning the midnight oil at Newman Media, Victoria shows up with a bottle of bourbon. “It’s a *very* nice bottle because she’s rich,” chuckles Amelia Heinle (Victoria). “Victoria is very intrigued by Nate. I think she’s been a little lonely and she knows that he can be trusted. After everything she’s been through with Ashland and how difficult all of that was, it’s just nice for her to know someone who is a solid person. And she thinks Nate’s office is a safe place for them to be friends and not just boss and employee.”

Although Nate betrayed his family in the name of business, Victoria isn’t concerned that he’ll turn on her, too. “She thinks she knows him better than that,” Heinle reasons. “She believes that he’s not really that kind of a person. He did something that she probably would have done herself, so she can’t judge him for that. In fact, she actually admires him for it. He wasn’t given proper credit for his talent and drive at Chancellor-Winters. Before Victor gave Victoria a chance to be the CEO of Newman, he was always testing her but never rewarding her. So she wants to reward Nate.”

“She’s definitely smitten with him.”

Victoria pours two glasses and informs Nate that she enjoys talking off the clock in order to brainstorm without pressure. “She tells Nate that she’s on board with his impressive plan to use Audra to take down Tucker, so Newman Enterprises can snap up his company as well as Omega Sphere,” the actress notes. “There are a lot of moving parts to this deal and she’s confident that she and Nate can make it happen even though she thinks Audra is a little sketchy. But Nate assures he can make sure Audra stays on their side.”

When Victoria praises the formidable team they’ll become, the mood turns serious and they kiss. “It’s more Victoria being the instigator but Nate doesn’t stop the kiss,” points out Heinle. “Of course, they still have to maintain a professional relationship but there’s a new element that has been added. And make no mistake about it, she’s definitely smitten with him.”

GH: STELLA GETS SUSPICIOUS

It's All Relative: Stella (Watson, far r.) begins to put two and two together where Portia (Brook Kerr, l.) and Trina (Tabyana Ali) are concerned.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

■ Stella returns to Port Charles as Curtis and Portia's wedding day draws nearer, but a conversation with Trina brings her closer to the truth about the secret Portia is keeping.

While the two women are chatting, talk turns to the genealogy test that first connected Stella with her cousin in London — and also indicated that she had a close relative in town. "Stella finds out that Trina also took the test and found out that she had a close relation in town," sets up Vernee Watson (Stella). "Trina also tells her that Jordan was interested in all of this, and Stella wants to know why."

Stella raises the subject with Jordan, "who hems and haws," according to Watson. "She says, 'Oh, we're just investigating something.' Stella says, 'Is the company bogus? Are they guilty of some illegal practices or something?' And she's like, 'No, no, it's nothing like that.' So why is she so interested? Stella tries to figure out, 'Well, do you think I still have some relatives here? And why were you so interested in the Trina stuff?' And she really doesn't answer that question for Stella."

Jordan's evasiveness gets Stella's wheels turning. Reports Watson, "At first, Stella is thinking, 'Am I related to Trina?' But it said close relation. So then I try to figure out, am I related to her father? Because that's a closer relation. And if I'm not related to her father, then is it that her father is not really her father, and Curtis is? And that's when the explosion happens [in Stella's mind]. She remembers that Curtis and Portia had an affair around the same time that Trina [was conceived], so that just solidifies it for her."

Lacking proof and all too aware of how high the stakes are, Stella debates her next move. "Stella is supposed to be officiating the wedding," the actress notes. "And she has to go with Portia to pick out the gown knowing all this information, and Portia, all this time, has never hinted that this is a possibility! Stella doesn't want to jump on Portia because her wedding is coming up; she doesn't want to just come out and ask. But I would really hope that Stella would step up to the plate and be honest because she is very concerned about her nephew's happiness, and these women are very busy. There's a lot going on with these women, honey [*laughs*]! Every time I show up, there's something going on! But people are not being honest and they're being deceitful and Stella needs to get to the bottom of it. She needs to get proof and she needs to do it before Curtis walks down the aisle. It's a pickle, I tell you!"

DAYS: WILL STEFAN REMEMBER?

The Ties That Bind: Gabi (Banus) is determined to restore Stefan's (Brandon Barash) memory.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Gabi summons Dr. Rolf back to Salem to unscramble Stefan's brain. "Gabi's taken these extreme measures — kidnapping Stefan and handcuffing him to a chair — because he's told her he knows the truth and has chosen to not be deprogrammed," explains Camila Banus (Gabi). "He's chosen to live brainwashed to hate her. Gabi thinks he should not be living this lie and he especially should not be hating her. So she's taken it upon herself to get him deprogrammed."

Stefan is stunned when Gabi presents Rolf and announces that he's there to deprogram him. "Stefan is yelling and screaming during the entire process," says Banus. "He does not go down easy." Gabi won't be deterred, however. "Gabi keeps saying, 'Why would you want to live a lie? Just get deprogrammed, then you can make the choice that you want,' " adds the actress. "But it's tough to see that when you're tied to a chair."

> *"This could be Gabi's sheer bliss moment."*

Unfortunately, Rolf's makeshift equipment goes haywire during the procedure. "They're not in Rolf's lab. They're in the basement of the DiMera mansion with this makeshift laboratory that starts exploding and sparking up," describes Banus. "Gabi's definitely concerned. Even though she knows she's doing the right thing, she doesn't want to put Stefan's life in danger."

Finally, Stefan opens his eyes and says Gabi's name, but he seems dazed and unaware of his surroundings. "Gabi thinks that Dr. Rolf may have wiped Stefan's entire memory completely," notes Banus. Gabi encourages Stefan to remember not just who she is, but what she is to him. "This could be Gabi's sheer bliss moment, the moment she has been waiting for for five years," contends Banus. "She thinks this is going to be the start of her life again."

GH EXECS ON THE STATE OF THE SHOW

The Gang's All Here: GH's (from l.) Co-Head Writer Chris Van Etten, Donnell Turner (Curtis), Rebecca Herbst (Elizabeth), Maurice Benard (Sonny), Genie Francis (Laura), Tabyana Ali (Trina), Kristina Wagner (Felicia), Co-Head Writer Dan O'Connor and Nicholas Chavez (Spencer) looked to the future.

ABC

■ Execs and cast from GH gathered at the Television Critics Association (TCA) press tour in Pasadena, CA, to speak about the soap, which will celebrate its 60th anniversary on April 1.

The Nurses' Ball will coincide with the anniversary festivities. Noted Co-Head Writer Dan O'Connor, "I think there's no way to condense 60 years of history into one show or one storyline. So, we thought the best way to honor the past of the show and the future of the show and where we are going is to use the Nurses' Ball as a jumping-off point, as an opportunity to bring our beloved cast and characters together to acknowledge what we had done in the past and to set up storylines for the future."

Executive Producer Frank Valentini reflected on the evolution of the show since he took over in 2012. "When I came in, it was a really tricky time," he pointed out. "And I was able to, with the writers, change the pace and change the direction of the show to keep the show afloat. And over the last 12 years, we've been able to become a lean, mean fighting machine. And I think, in a very competitive television market, where we're competing with streaming and everything else, the fact that we're still going, and going strong, and able to tell stories that no one else can tell in a three-dimensional, attenuated way where we can tell everyone's point of view, I think is a testament to not only the people on stage, but the people who are back in the studio shooting a very tough episode today, as well. The imagination that Dan and Chris [Van Etten, co-head writer] and the talent and hard work that they bring to the show just continues to revitalize. And, you know, next year we'll celebrate 61. It won't be such a big celebration, but I think every year is an accomplishment, to stay on the air and to be relevant and to be something that people talk about and care about."

As for what the future holds, O'Connor offered, "Well, writing 250 episodes is a challenge, but I think what helps the process is that Chris and I and our entire team of women and men absolutely love the show. We grew up watching the show. I still have to pinch myself a little bit sometimes when I'm writing certain characters or meeting or seeing again some of the people on this panel. And I think the love for the show is what gets us through that challenge and keeps us going."

Added Valentini, "We're always trying to challenge this cast. We're blessed with a very, very talented cast.... We value not only the actors as performers, but as human beings and part of the company and part of the family that is GENERAL HOSPITAL."

Rebecca Herbst (Elizabeth) enthused, "For me, it never gets old. I still get excited when I drive onto the lot. I still love the smell of the studio. I just enjoy doing it all."

EARLY EDITIONS!

A preview of next week's stories.

B&B's Katie (Heather Tom)

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

- **Brooke defends Taylor to Katie.**
- Hope's decision blindsides Thomas.
- Deacon sneaks into the Spencer mansion to visit Sheila.

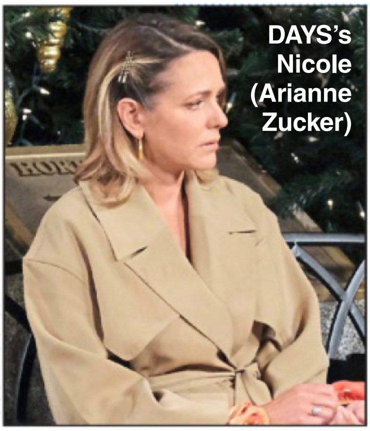
RATINGS RACE: *WEEK OF JANUARY 2*

The numbers listed after each show are ratings points. Each ratings point represents 1,238,000 homes. These numbers now reflect DVR playback within the same day.

• YOUNG AND RESTLESS	2.38
• BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL	2.21
• GENERAL HOSPITAL	1.49

** DAYS's ratings are not available from Peacock.*

NIELSEN MEDIA RESEARCH



DAYS's Nicole (Arianne Zucker)

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

- Roman turns to Lucas for help.
- Rolf is taken into custody.
- Stephanie reaches out to Alex.
- **Nicole has a dizzy spell.**

GH's Ava (Maura West)

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC

GENERAL HOSPITAL

- Liz has a big decision to make.
- Austin makes a generous offer.
- **Ava is in over her head.**

Y&R's Tessa (Cait Fairbanks, l.) and Mariah (Camryn Grimes)

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

- **Tessa and Mariah receive unexpected news.**
- Victor retaliates against Jack.
- Lily turns to Jill for counsel.
- Daniel loses patience with Phyllis.

Comings and Goings

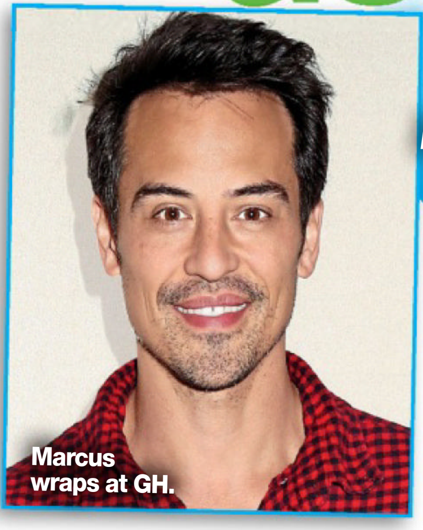
the latest cast changes

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Camelia returns to B&B.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Louise makes her presence known on DAYS.


STEVEN BERGMAN

Marcus wraps at GH.

who's coming

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Camelia Somers (Charlotte): Somers, the granddaughter of TV icon **Suzanne Somers**, reprises her role as a Forrester intern on January 30. Somers was last seen in 2020.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Louise Sorel (Vivian Alamain): Vivian reaches out to Stefan (**Brandon Barash**) this week. While original Vivian portrayer Sorel won't be seen, her voice will be heard.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Lynn Herring (Lucy Coe): The fan fave, who has been absent from the canvas since last October, when Victor (**Charles Shaughnessy**) framed Anna (**Finola Hughes**) for Lucy's "murder", is back in action as of last week.

Vernee Watson (Stella Henry): Aunt Stella is back in town — which might not bode well for Portia (**Brook Kerr**). See page 8 for more.

who's going

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

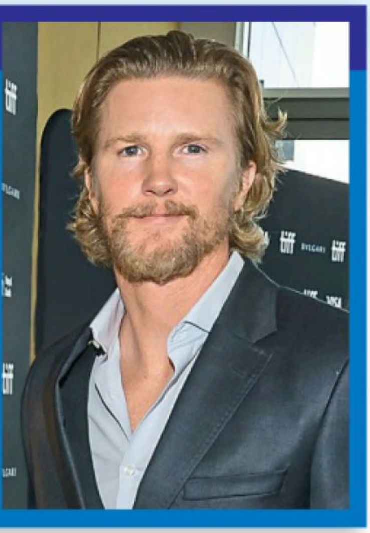
Chandler Massey (Will Horton): Will leaves town to film a movie, marking the end of Massey's recent visit.

GENERAL HOSPITAL

Marcus Coloma (Nikolas Cassadine): Coloma, who assumed the role of Nik in 2019, aired for the final time last week. Expect to see a temporary recast in the role this week, who filled in for Coloma for the final batch of episodes he was slated to shoot. According to a statement from Coloma's rep provided to *Deadline*, "due to health issues with his recent Covid exposure, the network graciously agreed that he should not film the remaining few days of [2022]," which is when his contract expired.

HOLLYWOOD BUZZ

■ **CHUCKY**, starring **Alyvia Alyn Lind** (ex-Faith, Y&R) and **Christine Elise** (ex-Emily, BEVERLY HILLS, 90210), has been picked up for a third season.... **Thad Luckinbill** (ex-J.T., Y&R, r.) will be part of the cast for the upcoming Netflix movie *Reptile*. Also starring will be **Justin Timberlake**, **Benicio Del Toro** and **Alicia Silverstone**.... CBS has renewed FIRE COUNTRY starring **Kevin Alejandro** (ex-Dominic, Y&R) for the 2023-24 season.... **Claudia Lonow** (ex-Diana, KNOTS LANDING) is developing an ensemble pilot for ABC called BOSS, based on her own life experience. The sitcom focuses on a set of frenemies who hire each other's very different daughters to be their assistants.



VITO AMATI/SHUTTERSTOCK

DENISE CROSBY ON GH STINT

SCOTT KIRKLAND/SHUTTERSTOCK

■ **Denise Crosby**, who made her GH debut as Liz's mother, Carolyn, last October, had a prior connection to Port Charles via **Jonathan Frakes**, **Genie Francis**'s (Laura) husband, who was her co-star on STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION, where she played Tasha Yar. She marvels, "When the offer came to me for GENERAL HOSPITAL, I got a text from my agent while I happened to be in Las Vegas at a big annual STAR TREK convention and Jonathan was, like, two seats away from me! I jumped up and went over to him and said, 'You've gotta look at this,' and he grabbed my phone and goes, 'Oh, my God, you have to do it!' He immediately called Genie and said, 'You're not going to believe this. Denise is standing here with me and she just got this offer from GENERAL HOSPITAL.' I got on the phone with Genie and she was like, 'You've got to do it, oh, my God, it'll be so great.' I said, 'Absolutely, I'll do it!' "

The actress had only dipped her toe into soaps once before ("I did maybe one or two episodes of DAYS OF OUR LIVES at the very beginning of my career, when I was probably 24 years old") and notes, "I pretty much thought that soaps were not going to be a part of my career. I just thought, 'Maybe they don't see me in that way, or who knows!' So I was really surprised to get this offer because all these years have passed and I've never gotten one. But I thought, 'Wow, okay, this is kind of wonderful, to jump into something so different than what I'm used to and use it as a test for my own skills.' "

The prospect of working on the show was even more appealing when she learned that **William R. Moses** had been cast as her on-screen husband, Jeff. "He and I are old friends in real life," she explains. "So that made it even more fun." Once their scripts were in hand, "We were both scrambling to have the gaps [in the characters' history] filled in for us. I'm a mother in real life, so I found the story [of what Jeff and Carolyn did to Liz] harrowing." And despite their fraught on-screen dynamic, Crosby took a fast shine to **Rebecca Herbst** (Elizabeth). "Becky was great — just adorable and easy to fall in love with," she praises.

Crosby would welcome a continuation of Carolyn's story. "It's such an honor to play her and be part of the incredible legacy of this show," she says. "And I'm hoping that there's more to come!"

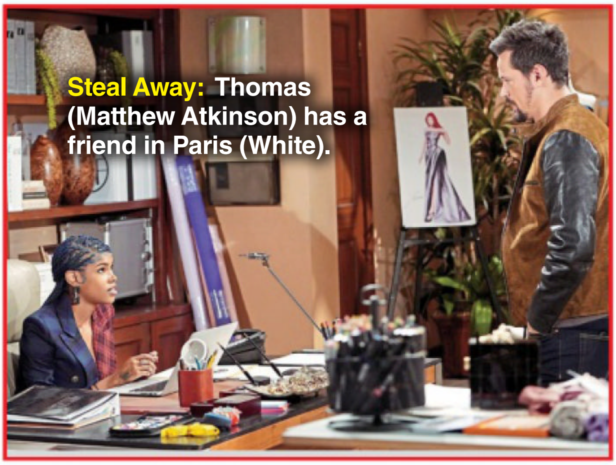
Hot Plots Pr

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL
Paris Hides Thomas

Since being ostracized from Forrester, Thomas has sought shelter with Paris. "I was shocked," chuckles her portrayer, Diamond White. "Paris and Thomas had a moment before, when Thomas allowed her to stay at his place when she didn't have a place, and that was a little unfinished business, so I think maybe they are trying to finish some unfinished business now that Paris is hiding Thomas."

Zende, however, is unaware that Paris has a roommate. "Paris always wants to see the best in people and she knows that Thomas is going through a rough spot," explains White. "She wants to see the best in him and give him a place to vent. But, Zende hasn't really been around her place, so it is definitely a little sneaky on her part."

Paris is hoping her kindness doesn't have negative consequences. "Hopefully this won't blow up in Paris's face," says the actress. "Right now, nothing crazy has happened. She's just giving him a place to lay low. Paris is an accepting person and is just trying to do what's right."



Steal Away: Thomas (Matthew Atkinson) has a friend in Paris (White).

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

Strange Craving: Sally (Courtney Hope) is oddly truthful with Nick (Morrow).

YOUNG AND RESTLESS
Sally Confesses to Nick

After Nick and Sally make love in her hotel suite, she suddenly breaks down crying and admits that there's a chance that Adam could be her baby's father. "I'm not sure why Sally doesn't think Nick already knows this," says Joshua Morrow (Nick). "After all, he walked in right after she had sex with Adam, so of course he would wonder if he's part of her pregnancy. But it's something that Sally thinks Nick hasn't put together. Or maybe she thinks he's trying to, you know, suppress it in some way."

Morrow acknowledges that Nick "cares about this woman a lot and he certainly knows what Sally and Adam had was very serious, so he's just sort of treading very lightly. He doesn't want to upset her so he's allowing things to play out her way."

And what about Adam? "Nick doesn't want to involve Adam any more than he already is," Morrow notes. "But at some point, Adam will have to know. Nick doesn't want to keep this a secret, and he wants to be up-front about everything."

eview! What Will Happen

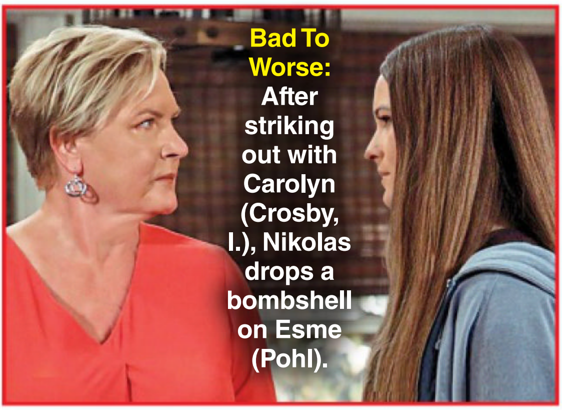
GENERAL HOSPITAL

Nikolas To Esme: I'm The Daddy

Nikolas brings Carolyn to Spring Ridge, hoping she will use the techniques she once employed on Elizabeth to ensure that Esme's amnesia will be permanent.

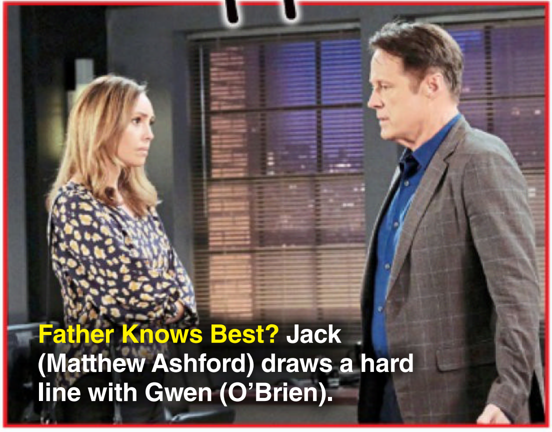
"Esme doesn't have any idea of what it is Nikolas wants Carolyn to do," begins her portrayer, Avery Pohl. "She's barely met the man at this point!" She dodges a bullet when Carolyn realizes that Esme is pregnant, causing her to abruptly end their meeting. "The buck stops there," says Denise Crosby (Carolyn). "She's not going to cross that line and wreck someone's life the way she feels like she's wrecked her daughter's."

Nikolas then throws Esme's life further into chaos by announcing that he, not Spencer, is the father of the baby she is carrying. "That is overwhelming information and she doesn't know how to process it," Pohl notes. "She's baffled, she's uncomfortable. Not only is she finding out that she had this weird relationship with this man, but she's going to have to raise the by-product of it! It's a lot to try to come to terms with."



Bad To Worse: After striking out with Carolyn (Crosby, l.), Nikolas drops a bombshell on Esme (Pohl).

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC; ABC



Father Knows Best? Jack (Matthew Ashford) draws a hard line with Gwen (O'Brien).

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Will Jack Disown Gwen?

Jack gives Gwen an ultimatum: testify against Xander or he'll disown her. "It comes as a shock," says Emily O'Brien (Gwen). "Jack and Xander are friends. Also, an ultimatum like that from your father is the last thing you want to hear. Gwen's completely torn. How do you ask somebody to choose between the love of their life and their father? Gwen doesn't know what to do. In the perfect world she would be able to have both."

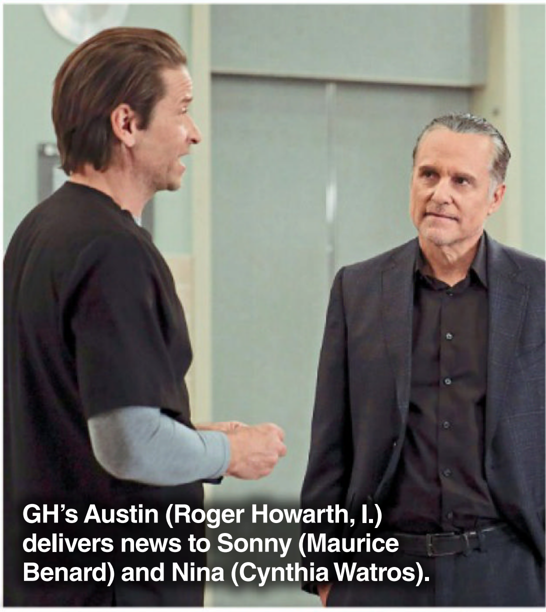
The situation "is so disappointing to Gwen," notes O'Brien. "It kind of alters her perception of Jack, presenting this to her. She has her reasons [for not wanting to testify]. She's like, 'Understand where I'm coming from. Xander could end up in prison. Do you want that for him? And are you really ready to let go of me?' "

Yet, Jack stands firm when Gwen refuses to give in to his demands. Will he really follow through with cutting his daughter out of his life? "She thought she was on a new level with her father ... that moving forward it was going to be unconditional love," sighs O'Brien. "Apparently, it's not."

1st LOOK photos

sneak peek

A glimpse of what's coming up in the week ahead!

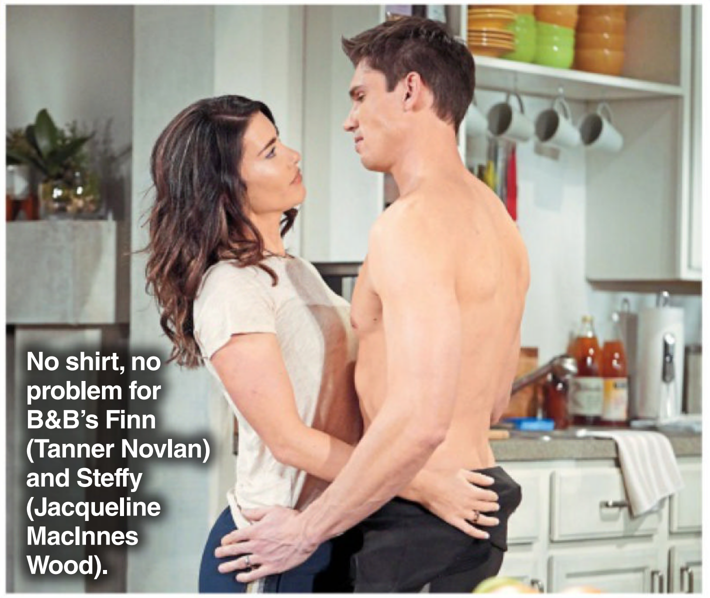


CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

GH's Austin (Roger Howarth, l.) delivers news to Sonny (Maurice Benard) and Nina (Cynthia Watros).

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

GH's Anna (Finola Hughes) keeps tabs on her neighbors.

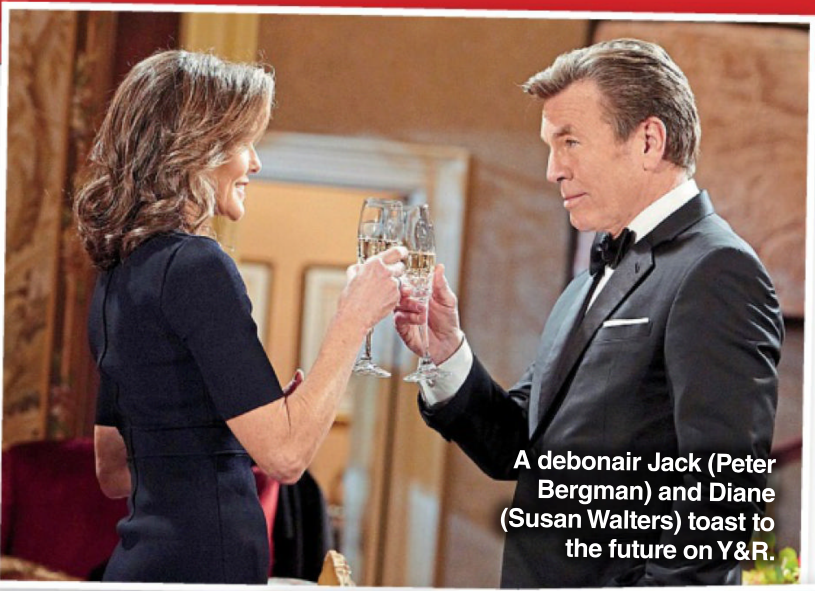


No shirt, no problem for B&B's Finn (Tanner Novlan) and Steffy (Jacqueline MacInnes Wood).

Deacon (Sean Kanan) tickles Hope (Annika Noelle, c.) and Brooke's (Katherine Kelly Lang) funny bone on B&B.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS's Anna (Leann Hunley, l.) does the handoff to Chloe (Nadia Bjorlin).



PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

A debonair Jack (Peter Bergman) and Diane (Susan Walters) toast to the future on Y&R.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

DAYS's Allie (Lindsay Arnold) can't look as Alex (Robert Scott Wilson) does the walk of shame.

Y&R's Adam (Mark Grossman) ponders ordering something other than his usual.

Marshall (Robert Gossett, I.) and Curtis (Donnell Turner) have a sit-down on GH.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

BEHIND the SCENES!

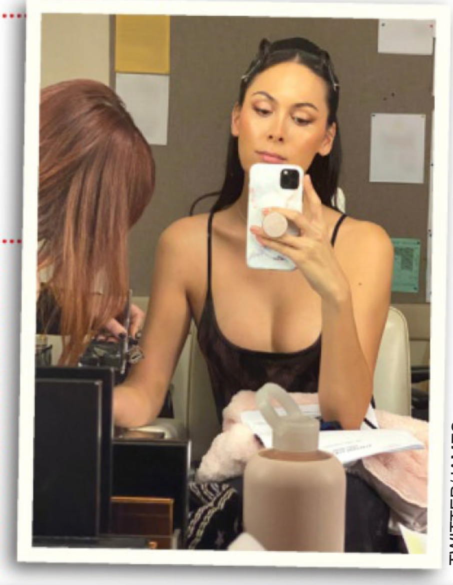
Social snaps of stars on set.

INSTAGRAM/HAYES

Bill Hayes (Doug) and Susan Seaforth Hayes (Julie) happily reported back to work at DAYS after their winter break.

"It's Cher & Dionne y'all!" quipped Tabyana Ali (Trina, l.), with Eden McCoy (Josslyn), referencing the 1995 cult classic, *Clueless*.

TWITTER/ALI



"Glam," reported GH's Cassandra James (Terry) from the makeup chair.

TWITTER/JAMES

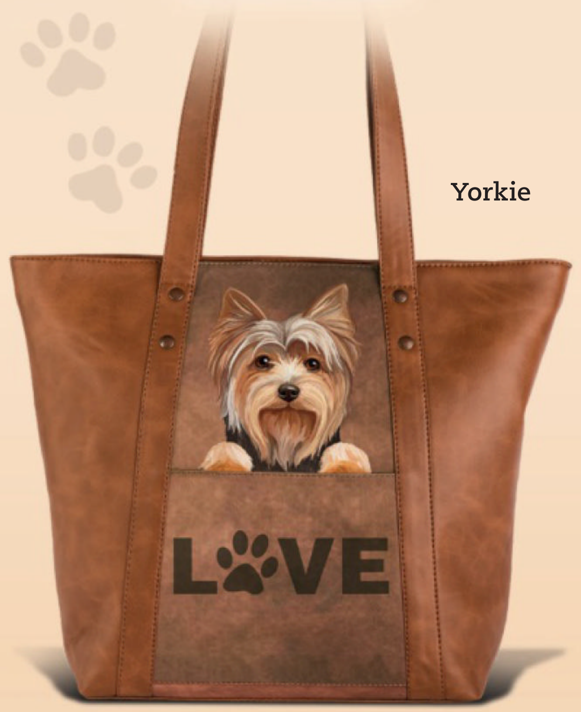
Donna Mills (ex-Madeline, GH et al) posed with James Lesure on the set of ROOKIE FEDS, in which she recently appeared as a guest star.

INSTAGRAM/MILLS

Y&R's Tracey E. Bregman (Lauren, c.) was flanked by co-stars (from l.) Greg Rikaart (Kevin), Elizabeth Hendrickson (Chloe), Judith Chapman (Gloria), Christian J. LeBlanc (Michael) and Zach Tinker (Fen).

HOWARD WISE/JPI

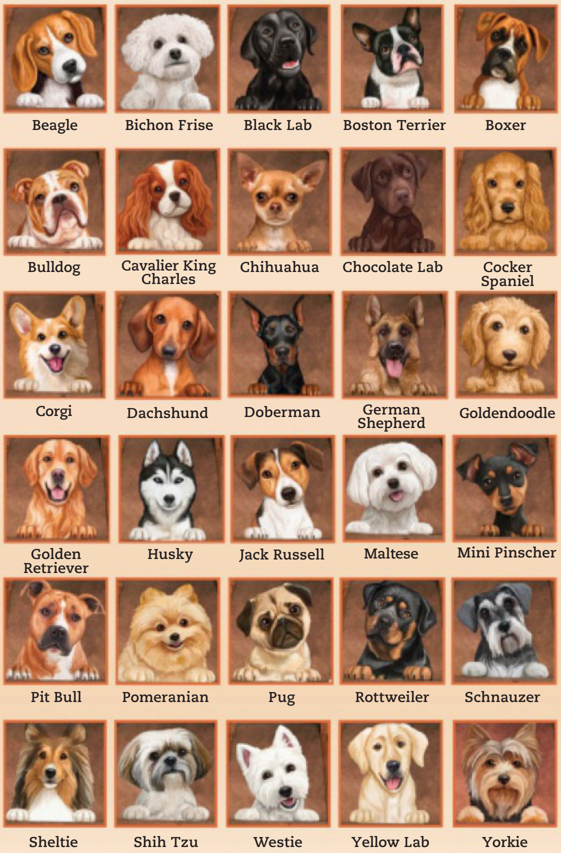
Peek-a-Boo Pup
DOG TOTE



16" W x 13.5" H x 5.5" D with 10" Drop

CUSTOM DESIGNED EXCLUSIVES
FROM THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

CHOOSE FROM 30 BREEDS!


Beagle
Bichon Frise
Black Lab
Boston Terrier
Boxer
Bulldog
Cavalier King Charles
Chihuahua
Chocolate Lab
Cocker Spaniel
Corgi
Dachshund
Doberman
German Shepherd
Goldendoodle
Golden Retriever
Husky
Jack Russell
Maltese
Mini Pinscher
Pit Bull
Pomeranian
Pug
Rottweiler
Schnauzer
Sheltie
Shih Tzu
Westie
Yellow Lab
Yorkie

The irresistible ***"Peek-a-Boo Pup" Dog Tote*** is expertly crafted in softly marbled faux leather in two warm tones of brown. The center panel on the front showcases unique artwork featuring the dog breed of your choice peeking out from the pocket. Below the large slip pocket is one special word that captures just how you feel about your precious pooch—LOVE! In the word LOVE, the "O" is replaced with a perfect paw print for a look that's both playful and stylish. Other design details include a top-zip closure and, on the faux suede-lined interior, two slip pockets and a zip pocket. Antiqued bronze-finish hardware is featured throughout. This tote is a must-have accessory for dog lovers and fashion fanatics alike.

Don't Miss Out... Order Today!

This companion carry-all is available in your choice of 30 breeds! It's an outstanding value at $129.95*, payable in 4 easy installments of $32.49, and backed by our 90-day guarantee. We expect strong demand… order yours today!

Order Today at bradfordexchange.com/33697

Connect with Us!

©2023 The Bradford Exchange
01-33697-001-DIM1B

The Bradford Exchange Celebrates 50 Years!

PRIORITY RESERVATION SEND NO MONEY NOW

The Bradford Exchange
9345 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60714-1393

Yes! Please reserve the ***"Peek-a-Boo Pup" Dog Tote(s)*** for me as described in this announcement in the breed(s) checked below.

☐ Beagle
☐ Bichon Frise
☐ Black Lab
☐ Boston Terrier
☐ Boxer
☐ Bulldog
☐ Cavalier King Charles
☐ Chihuahua
☐ Chocolate Lab
☐ Cocker Spaniel
☐ Corgi
☐ Dachshund
☐ Doberman
☐ German Shepherd
☐ Goldendoodle
☐ Golden Retriever
☐ Husky
☐ Jack Russell
☐ Maltese
☐ Mini Pinscher
☐ Pit Bull
☐ Pomeranian
☐ Pug
☐ Rottweiler
☐ Schnauzer
☐ Sheltie
☐ Shih Tzu
☐ Westie
☐ Yellow Lab
☐ Yorkie

*Plus a total of $15.99 shipping and service (see bradfordexchange.com). Please allow 2-4 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Signature ______________________

Mrs. Mr. Ms. ______________________
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address ______________________

City ____________ State ______ Zip ______

Email ______________________

01-33697-001-E97801

EXTRA! EXTRA!

snap POLL

Readers of soapoperadigest.com weigh in.

Should the bond between Y&R's Chance and Sharon turn romantic?

The Great Divide: Y&R fans are split over where Sharon (Sharon Case) and Chance's (Conner Floyd) relationship should go.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Yes	43%
No	57%

trend temperature

	Double Daytime Duty	Felonious Framing	Y&R Ex Sex
HOT	Zach Tinker (DAYS/Y&R)	Y&R's Stark	Diane/Jack
WARM	Alley Mills (B&B/GH)	GH's Anna	Adam/Sally
COLD	Greg Rikaart (DAYS/Y&R)	DAYS's EJ	Devon/Elena

STAR SHOTS OF THE WEEK

"Ford took this!" reported B&B's Scott Clifton (Liam) of his 6-year-old son.

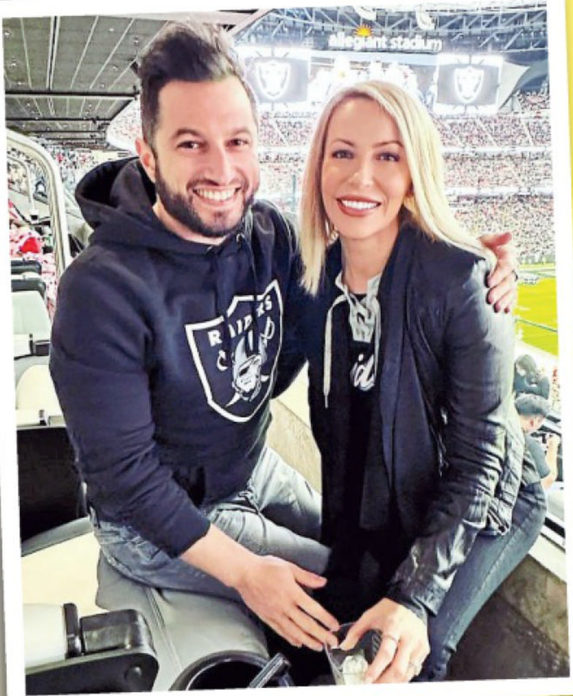
INSTAGRAM/CLIFTON

TWITTER/ROWELL

"@NiecyNash [r.] WOW!!! Awesome to celebrate you and @thesherylralph w/ colleagues, friends & family for your brilliant performances in TV & FILM !!!" enthused Victoria Rowell (ex-Dru, Y&R). "Sistah's stickin' together!"

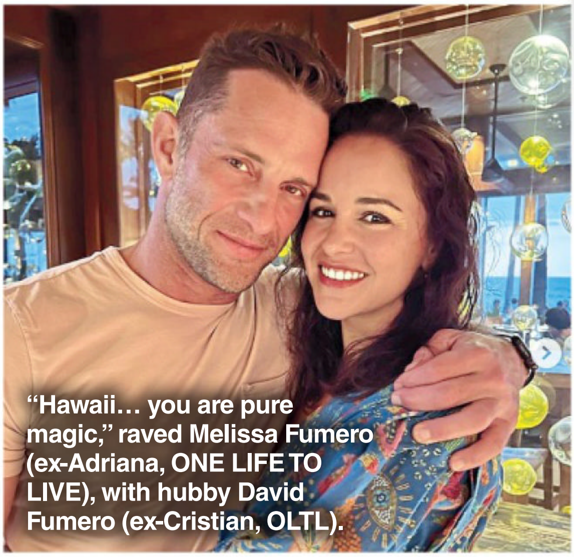
DAYS's Victoria Grace (Wendy) spent time in the nation's capital.

INSTAGRAM/GRACE



INSTAGRAM/GALFOND

Farah Fath (ex-Mimi, DAYS et al) and husband Phil Galfond attended a Las Vegas Raiders game.



"Hawaii… you are pure magic," raved Melissa Fumero (ex-Adriana, ONE LIFE TO LIVE), with hubby David Fumero (ex-Cristian, OLTL).

INSTAGRAM/FUMERO

SNEAK PREVIEW!

Record This

your handy guide to must-see episodes

Bold And Beautiful

D-Day

On **Tuesday, January 31**, Deacon is delighted when Brooke and Hope hit up his new pizza spot, but he is forced to deflect when the conversation turns to Sheila.... Deacon and Brooke express warm feelings for one another on **Wednesday, February 1**.... On **Friday, February 3,** Deacon covers his emotions when Sheila (r.) visits Il Giardino.

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Days Of Our Lives

See You At The Reunion

On **Monday, January 30**, Li demands to know what kind of game Gabi's playing.... Jack encourages Chad to find love again on **Tuesday, January 31**.... On **Wednesday, February 1**, Chad pours his heart out to Stephanie.... On **Thursday, February 2**, Wendy catches Alex sneaking out of Allie's bedroom, and Paulina encourages Chanel to make up with Allie.... Steve stuns Roman (both l.) and John with his plan for Orpheus; Marlena, Kayla and Kate grapple with their fate; and Kate encounters an old foe, while Kayla is reunited with a loved one on **Friday, February 3**.

General Hospital

I Know Something You Don't Know

Nina becomes privy to a secret; Felicia delivers a surprise; and Maxie and Sasha catch up on **Monday, January 30**.... On **Tuesday, January 31**, Drew assists Curtis, while Liz preps a patient for surgery.... Trina advises Spencer on **Wednesday, February 1**, while Carolyn warns Liz, and Michael gets worrisome news.... On **Thursday, February 2**, Britt's loved ones gather for her memorial; Heather concocts a new scheme; and Brad (r.) makes a request of Selina.

CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Young And Restless

Measured Doses

On **Monday, January 30**, Victor conspires with Kyle; Lauren points Phyllis in the right direction; and Elena keeps a watchful eye on Nate.... Victor targets Tucker (r.) on **Tuesday, January 31**, and Daniel and Lily evaluate their partnership.... On **Wednesday, February 1**, Adam exposes Kyle's alliance with Victor; Lily works to repair her relationship with Devon; and Victoria is forced to defend her actions.... Victor plots his next move on **Thursday, February 2**, while Nikki backs Diane into a corner, and Jack confronts Kyle about his deception.... On **Friday, February 3**, Billy and Chelsea share mixed signals, and Victoria leaves her comfort zone.

TV TIME

On **Monday, January 30**, on ALL AMERICAN, when the Santa Ana winds blow, it confirms Billy's theory that they are a bad omen after he faces multiple setbacks; Spencer convinces a reluctant ally to speak the truth; Jordan finds himself juggling secrets and accidentally lets one slip; Olivia throws herself into moving on; and Skye offers to help Patience with her social media. Henry Joseph Samiri (Douglas, B&B, r.) stars in Freeform's THE WATCHFUL EYE, which kicks off with a two-episode premiere event.... On **Tuesday, January 31**, on THE ROOKIE, John hunts for a mystery gunman after a shooting hits too close to home. LA BREA, starring Natalie Zea (ex-Gwen, PASSIONS, l.), returns from its hiatus with back-to-back episodes.... On **Saturday, February 4**, Brenda Strong (ex-Mary Alice, DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES) headlines Hallmark's SWEETER THAN CHOCOLATE.... On **Sunday, February 5**, on THE WAY HOME, Alice double-dates with her parents as teens; Kat's first visit to the past brings a surprising discovery; and Del swallows her pride to ask for help.

BRENDAN MEADOWS/FREEFORM; SARAH NTICKNAP/NBC

Please Note: These are the scheduled air dates, released to us by the networks and TV production companies at press time. Due to last-minute pre-emptions, actual air dates may vary.

thumbs up! and down!

Best Of Show Or
Worse For Wear?
Digest Decides.

thumbs up!

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

The Sum Of Us

Y&R has taken Adam and Chelsea on a satisfying journey. Despite the turbulent history the former marrieds share, they have become good friends who treat each other with concern and respect. Many hurdles had to be jumped to achieve this (both characters have done their fair share of spinning out of control, leading to bitterness and resentment on both their parts), and slowly but surely, the exes found a way to be civil to each other in order to do right by their shared son, Connor. How far they've come was highlighted particularly well when Chelsea was driven to the brink of suicide. She feared, and not without reason, that he would use this against her to gain custody of Connor, but instead, he showed her great sensitivity and compassion. Each character has grown, allowing them not only to share touching, introspective conversations but to enjoy activities together with their son. We're glad Y&R chose to break their cycle of dysfunction and move them forward both as individuals and as co-parents.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

Y&R's Adam (Mark Grossman) and Chelsea (Melissa Claire Egan)

thumbs down!

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

How Deep Is Your Love?

After the gripping shooting/presumed death/miraculous recovery/tear-jerking reunion that so captivated viewers last year, Finn and Steffy's screen time now consists nearly exclusively of having sex after surfing or fretting about Sheila. Bill's blackmail has thrown them a curveball, through which viewers learned that Steffy had never confided in her husband about her scandalous past with Bill. What does it say about their emotional intimacy that she chose to keep Finn in the dark about such a painful chapter in her life? (The history lesson was, itself, odd, since the recap she offered Finn completely skipped over their pre-2018 involvement.) Finn barely had a reaction to learning that his wife had slept with

Applause, Applause

Loved seeing Joe Lando back on B&B as Judge McMullen.... Good use of history on GH (and a lovely performance by Eden McCoy) when Josslyn reflected on Oscar's death from cancer after learning of Willow's leukemia battle.

Picky Picky

You mean to tell us that a crafty billionaire like Y&R's Tucker couldn't cover his tracks regarding his secret association with Audra well enough for Devon not to be able to bust him after one phone call? ...We feel a little cheated that GH's Brad, Maxie, Nina and Austin found out Britt was dead off screen....Why didn't DAYS's Roman or Rex contact Lucas so he could say good-bye to his mother *before* Kate died?

her former father-in-law — and while we wouldn't want him to shame her for it, *some* drama would have been welcome! Fans took a fast shine to Finn and Steffy because she was overdue for a heroic and devoted partner who had eyes for her and her alone, and the chemistry between Tanner Novlan and Jacqueline MacInnes Wood is undeniably strong, but the bond between them would have even greater resonance if the show put more emphasis on showing fans what truly makes them tick as a unit.

thumbs up!

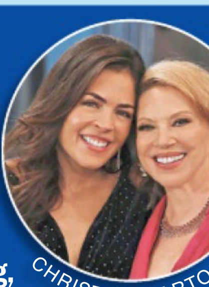
DAYS OF OUR LIVES

Three Of Hearts

DAYS has taken its time re-familiarizing the audience with Stephanie, and by slowly introducing her into Alex and Chad's lives, the writers have cemented a solid foundation for the triangle, which has strong rooting factors for both couples. Stephanie is Alex's "dream girl" and is inspiring him to forsake his womanizing ways; he's become kinder, gentler and noticeably more respectful of the opposite sex. Chad, the grieving widower, presents a totally different, yet viable, option. His emotional struggle to move past Abigail has brought depth to the story, while his kids (who have taken an instant shine to their dad's new friend) add a dose of the adorable. The context is completely different, but we know from the Ben/Abby/Chad triangle how compelling Billy Flynn (Chad) and Robert Scott Wilson (Alex; ex-Ben) are as romantic rivals, adding interest to the "Who will get the girl?" stakes.

Performers Of The Week

Kathleen Gati *(OBRECHT)* and Kelly Thiebaud *(EX-BRITT)*, GH



CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

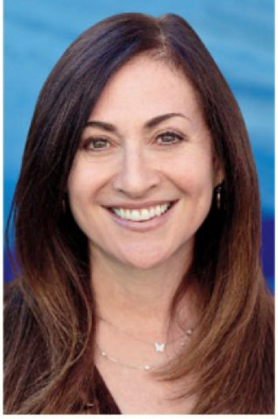
GH kicked off its new year with a crushing blow: Britt dying in her mother's arms. The scenes were brought to harrowing, heartfelt life by portrayers Gati and Thiebaud.

After Britt fought off The Hook and returned to *The Haunted Star*, both women thought she was out of imminent danger. Then Obrecht innocently observed what she thought was a simple scrape on Britt's chest, and Thiebaud's body visibly flooded with panic as she realized the implications — she'd likely been poisoned with a deadly toxin. Gut-punched, she stumbled forward in a daze, struggling to keep her face from betraying her growing fear as her mother tended to her wound, gazing upon her lovingly. "I've been thinking a lot about wasted time lately," Obrecht told her, growing serious and uncommonly introspective as she reflected on her maternal failings, her delivery as sincere and poignant as the touching words she spoke. Britt instinctively reached out her hand to offer comfort, but pulled it back when she began coughing up blood.

Struggling for breath, Britt began to say her final good-byes, which Obrecht pooh-poohed, not yet understanding that time was running out. Holding her mother's gaze, Britt explained that she'd been scratched by The Hook, and Gati's eyes widened in horror. Softly, but firmly, Britt warned her, "You can't save me." Her strength waning, her voice cracking, her heart breaking at the sight of her mother's mounting anguish — and with her late brother very much on both of their minds — Britt told her, "You can hold me ... like you wanted to hold Nathan." This shattered Obrecht, who shook with emotion as she enveloped Britt into a tight embrace. Their chests were pressed together, and it was the sudden, subtle, agonizing shift in Gati's expression as Obrecht felt her child's heart stop beating that communicated that Britt had died. First, she froze; then she melted into an excruciating mixture of grief, pain and regret.

The mother/daughter dynamic Gati and Thiebaud created was unorthodox, but as their relationship evolved over the years, it benefited from the humor, the honesty and most of all, the love that the actresses infused into it — and never was that more on display than here, in its final, unforgettable showcase.

editor's note


JIM WARREN

Dear Readers,

Another week and another sad soap death to report. This one is Ben Masters, who so memorably served as PASSIONS patriarch Julian. Ben was only 75, and suffering from dementia, but it was Covid that felled him in the end. On page 4, his former co-stars share condolences and memories. Lori Latusek, who covered PASSIONS for *Digest*, shares, "Ben was a master of comedic timing on screen and off. I always smiled and laughed when spending time with him. He was always kind, generous with his time, and made everyone feel special. He really was one of a kind." May he rest in peace.

I covered DAYS for the magazine when Rachel Melvin played Chelsea, and she was always so accessible on screen and off, so when I saw her social media posts about her nuptial nightmare, I had to reach out to get the full story. Rachel has never pulled any punches, and on page 42, she opens up about how things went horribly wrong on what should have been the best day of her life.

B&B's Katherine Kelly Lang shares what she likes about Brooke in our Character Study feature on page 30. In the Roundup on page 36, stars reveal what other soap role they would have liked to play. And in our special section beginning on page 48, four soap jailbirds look back on doing time on screen.

Stephanie Sloane

Stephanie Sloane,
VP, Editorial Director

a360 Media LLC, 270 Sylvan Avenue, Suite 2220, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

President & Chief Media Officer **DOUG OLSON**

Executive Vice President, Digital Media Operations **DAVID S. THOMPSON**

Executive Vice President, Consumer Revenue **ERIC SZEGDA**

soap OPERA digest

VP, Editorial Director
STEPHANIE SLOANE

Deputy Editor
STELLA BEDNARZ

Senior Editor
MARA LEVINSKY

Senior Copy Editor
MICHAEL KAROL

Senior Writers
DEVIN OWENS
TOM STACY

Senior Photo Editor
BRYAN BECKLEY

Contributing Editors
JANET DI LAURO
CAROLYN HINSEY
DONNA HOKE

Art Director
GEORGIA BENARDOS

Associate Art Directors
STEPHANIE ABRECHT
GARY WALSH

Production Manager
MARKO BARLOVIC

FOR SUBSCRIPTION
CUSTOMER SERVICE PLEASE EMAIL
sodcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com

Any submissions or contributions from readers shall be subject to and governed by Soap Opera Digest's Privacy Policy and Terms Of Use, which are posted at https://www.americanmediainc.com/terms-and-conditions and https://www.americanmediainc.com/privacy-policy, respectively.

a360media

mpa

100+ PAGES OF PUZZLES YOU CAN TAKE ANYWHERE!
soap OPERA digest
PUZZLE
F·R·I·E·N·D·S
·EDITION!·
FUN
FEBRUARY 2023
FRIENDS-Themed Word Searches, Crosswords, Sudoku And More!
FUN & EASY GAMES FOR EVERYONE!
CROSSWORD PUZZLE 2
JENNIFER ANISTON
BE OUR G·U·E·S·T (PART 1)
START
FINISH
Fun-Filled Activity Pages To Keep Your Brain Engaged
PLUS!
Coloring Pages
ON SALE NOW
AT YOUR NEWSSTAND

It's Only My Opinion

Daytime's most outspoken columnist!

By Carolyn Hinsey

Follow Carolyn on Twitter @carolynhinsey

■ Soaps are playing a lot of exes together and it's turning out the same way it does in real life: Some reunions work, some don't and some just leave you feeling stupid.

■ Kidnapping your own kid to get the upper hand with your blackmailing ex is up there — just ask DAYS's Brady Black.

Brady: "We need to be patient."

Kristen *(hyperventilating)*: "Patient, patient, aaahhh! I can't sit still! I love that little girl! Ah, ah, ah, ah."

Brady: "Take a deep breath."

As much as I despise Kristen, watching her scream like a banshee about her missing child was not entertaining. Watching brothers Brady and Eric team up to trick her, however, was. Eric lying that Rachel couldn't go home because "Mommy is sick" was next level. (Nice work from a former priest.) Unfortunately, Brady telling Eric on the phone that he had to be "really, really careful" about when he came clean to Kristen about the kidnapping plot was sloppy.

Kristen *(overhearing)*: "What the hell did you do with my daughter?"

Brady: "You're not going to get her back until you hand over the orchid."

A quick trip to the DiMera secret room revealed The Magic Flower that would cure Marlena, Kayla and Kate was gone (so our favorite divas started "dying"), but that didn't stop Brady from heading straight to Chloe to beg forgiveness for dumping her.

> **Soaps are playing a lot of exes together and it's turning out the same way it does in real life.**

Brady: "Kristen had the orchid. She'd provide the serum if I agreed to end my relationship with you. I love you and I hope you come to realize you love me, too."

Chloe: *Not so fast.*

The Magic Flower Reveal ignited two other popular former pairs, with similar results.

Nicole *(to Eric)*: "Kristen forced you to break up with me?"

Gabi *(to an indifferent Stefan)*: "Now we know what they all did to keep you and me apart!"

While those old flames were weighing the pros and cons of soap opera love, Kristen had to move back to the DiMera mansion with her designer tail between her legs — to the chagrin of her disapproving brother.

EJ: "All this so Brady would break up with Chloe?"

Kristen: "Brady is my baby daddy and Rachel wanted us to be a family!"

I liked it better when she was screaming.

■ I was the one screaming when B&B unveiled The Plot To Save Sheila, which involved getting her exes Deacon and Mike to lie for her while she somehow gaslit Bill into blackmailing the

Fool Me Once: Y&R's Ashley (Eileen Davidson) should be too smart to fall for Tucker's (Trevor St. John) charms.

HOWARD WISE/JPI

mother of his grandchild to keep her out of jail.

Steffy *(to Finn)*: "If we testify against Sheila, my mom is going to end up in prison, too!"

Seems Bill would press charges against Taylor for shooting him if Steffy and Finn didn't drop the charges against Sheila for shooting them. Here's the problem: Taylor shot Bill in the spring of 2018. The statute of limitations in L.A. for assault with a deadly weapon is three years (I looked it up) so the entire premise makes no sense. Besides, Taylor could get a good lawyer, testify that she acted in the heat of the moment after Bill slept with her daughter, and let a jury decide. That's certainly better than letting a vengeful murderer like Sheila go free.

Other wrinkles: The cops also had Sheila on the attempted murder of Li, escaping custody, faking her own death...

Steffy: "Our charges aren't the only ones necessary to convict her."

Right! Most glaring is the fact that Dollar Bill Spencer would never throw away his relationship with his sons for a manipulative murderer he supposedly fell for last Tuesday.

Sheila *(purring)*: "You've been with good girls who wanted to change you. You're not one of them. Neither one of us are."

Blech. On the bright side, good for B&B for resurrecting the major plot point of Taylor being an unhinged shooter and Brooke's reaction to her ex-husband bedding her worst enemy will be soapy goodness. And I am always in when a show winks at us about a recast.

Steffy: "My mom was a different person back then."

Okay, that's funny.

🟦 GH's Ava went *scorched earth* on her estranged husband Nikolas when she found out Esme was 1) alive and 2) pregnant.

Ava: "The baby that Esme is carrying is yours, isn't it?"

Nikolas: "Yes."

Thwack!

Laura's face was priceless. Spencer wasn't too excited about it either, causing him to remark to Cam that Joss probably cheated on him, too.

Spencer: "My father slept with my girlfriend, so forgive me if I don't have a lot of faith in relationships."

🟦 Jack falling for Diane's b.s. on Y&R weakens him and makes both him and Kyle — the son she conceived by stealing Jack's sperm — look like dopes. They are risking their loved ones for her and she is so not worth it.

Ashley: "You have bought Diane's 'poor me' act."

Jack: "It is not 'poor me'. I have decided to protect my son's mother."

Ashley: "So years ago, Diane chose to double-cross a dangerous criminal and now our family is in danger."

Jack committing grand larceny for Diane is beyond ridiculous when they could just call the cops and report Diane's ex, Jeremy, for stalking, blackmail, whatever, instead of robbing Jack's ex-wife Nikki to somehow "prove Diane's loyalty" to Jeremy.

Jack *(to Diane)*: "I'll get in, get out, bring a piece of Nikki's jewelry back."

I hope Nikki and Victor prosecute Jack and Diane all the way into the slammer.

Which brings us to Ashley falling for her ex-husband Tucker's smarmy bedroom charms and then finding out he was using her (and also sleeping with Audra, which we knew).

Abby: "Devon saw you and Tucker together."

Ashley: "I feel stupid."

Like I said...

🟦 Hey. It's only my opinion. ☐

CHARAC

Actors Offer Insight Into

Katherine Kelly Lang (Brooke, B&B)

By Tom Stacy

You have played Brooke since the very first episode of B&B in 1987. How would you say she has evolved in 35 years? "So much of her life has been wrapped around Ridge, so I'm hoping that maybe she can find some new ways to branch out and rediscover herself. She has started down that path. I hope she sticks to it."

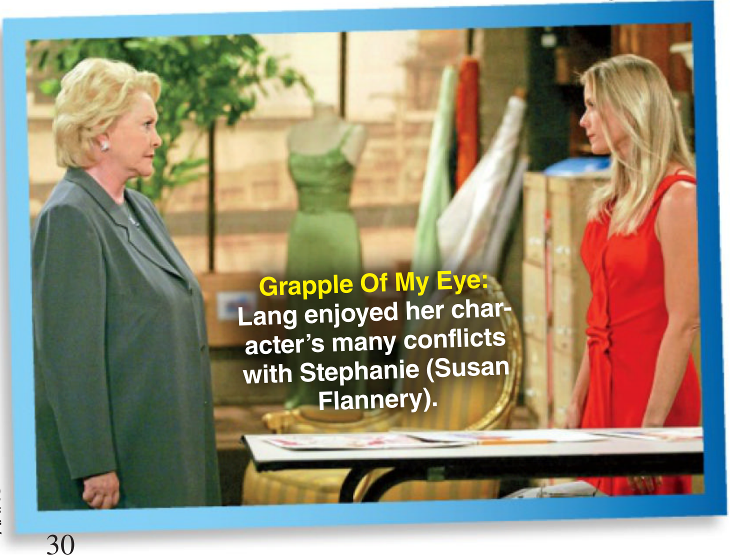
What three words best describe Brooke? "Loving. She is very loving. Tenacious, because when she really wants something, she goes after it. Smart. Sometimes I have to remind people that she is smart because sometimes people say Brooke doesn't do anything."

Do you have a signature storyline? "Gosh, those days where she and Stephanie would be battling, I loved that. I loved when Brooke took over the company the first time because she created BeLieF and the Forresters were not giving her credit. She took over the company because she created a formula that made millions of dollars and they just weren't being fair, so with her lawyer, she managed to work it out. I loved those scenes. She was wearing that powerful red outfit and she really took control. She was like, 'I deserve this,' and said, 'This is what I'm going to get,' and she stuck to it."

Would you ever like to revisit Brooke's chemist background? "Sure, why not? I'd love to see her get back into the lab and create something amazing."

Besides that, what else would you say Brooke is good at? "She's very good when it comes to business. She created a lot of things when she was a chemist. Then, she entered the fashion world and developed her own fashion lines, and I wonder why she is not doing anything like that now. There are things I'd like to see with Brooke. I'd like to see her more career-driven. Maybe she is getting to that point."

The Logan sisters have been an integral part of the show since its inception. How is it playing that dynamic? "I love the sisters! We've been the 'Logan Girls' since day one. It all started in the house in the Valley when Katie was looking at her pimples in the mirror [*laughs*]. They've always been there for each other. Yes, they've been through their share of stuff but they have also forgiven each



Grapple Of My Eye: Lang enjoyed her character's many conflicts with Stephanie (Susan Flannery).

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI

TER STUDY:

Their Alter Egos

Valley Girls: Brooke's bond with Katie (Heather Tom, r.) and Donna (Jennifer Gareis) has been evident from the start.

PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

other, especially with the whole Katie and Bill situation. But still, I think they will always be loving sisters, and nothing can come between them."

What is the closest thing you and your character have in common? "Well, we both love our families very much. We are very protective of our children. We always try to remain positive, even though Brooke is struggling at times. She is, for the most part, very positive and so am I."

What are your thoughts about Brooke's newfound independence and finally focusing on herself? "I do like that Brooke is coming into her own. She is finally realizing, 'What am I doing? Why am I wasting all this time? What's going on?' And she has to think about herself at some point. Otherwise, she just gets dragged along in this same old destructive cycle. She realized that and stood up for herself and said, 'This is about me now.' I remember reading that script and thinking, 'This is really mature.' It was great that it was written that way. She wasn't trying to get back at Ridge or stick it to him. Brooke real-

GILLES TOUCAS/COURTESY OF BELL-PHILLIP TELEVISION INC.

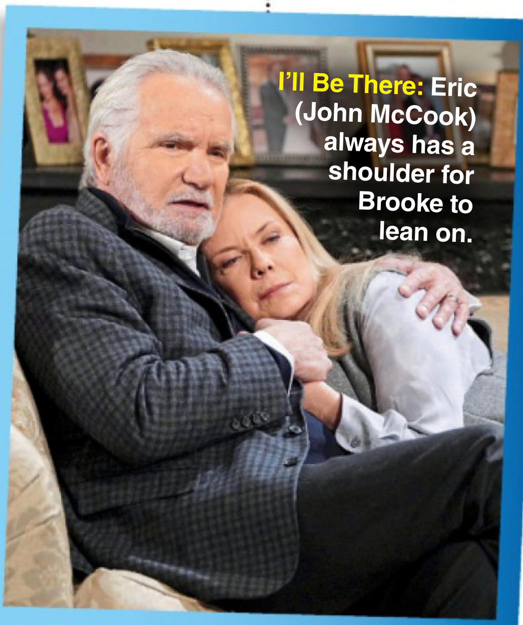
ized what she was doing and she was not going to do that anymore. She stood up and said, 'This is how it is.' It was like the lightbulb went off in her head — finally — and it turned on brightly. She very clearly explained to Ridge, 'This is how I feel. This is what you're doing. This is what we should do, and that's the way it is.' I really liked it. I love that she was understanding the whole thing and the way she handled herself and the situation."

Besides Ridge, who would you say Brooke is closest to in the Forrester family? "Eric. They have always been close. I feel that neither of them took anything personally. They were always there for each other. They were always very supportive and understanding, and I just thought that was a very healthy relationship. They were always very good friends and they could talk to each other about anything, and I think that's been there ever since they met."

When Brooke has downtime, what does she do to relax? "I think she takes a nice, hot bath and drinks champagne — nonalcoholic, of course. Can't you just see it?"

What is something Brooke has not done yet but you'd love to see her do? "Oh, gosh. What has she not done? She's done a lot of things. Maybe start a new company?"

Is there a story you'd like to revisit and maybe play it in a different way? "I always wonder why lately it seems like her stepkids, Steffy and Thomas, are strangers. I wish we could show more of the history there. Brooke was very much a mother figure to them when Taylor wasn't here. So, I would think they would have some kind of relationship, whether they're getting along or whether they are fighting or whatever. But there is all that history involved and I think you can feel that they have been in each other's lives forever. I feel there is so much more that can be done there. I do hope it goes in that direction."


I'll Be There: Eric (John McCook) always has a shoulder for Brooke to lean on.

Taylor Made: After three decades, Brooke and Taylor (Krista Allen) finally became friends.

Besides her sisters, does Brooke have a best friend? "Well, it's funny because she and Taylor are starting to see things very similarly, and I think it's great. Brooke does need a friend. Ridge has always been a friend to her but I think it's time she needs somebody else to be a good friend and help her look at things differently — and who better than having it be your adversary, someone you've been fighting for years and years and years [*laughs*]? I definitely think they've come to a point where they are thinking the same way at the same time, which is great."

What do you like most about Brooke's house? "I love how it just feels familiar and comfortable, and I like the fact that it hasn't changed much over the years. It really reminds me of the kids growing up there. It's home."

Brooke has had a number of lovers over the years. Is there one that got away that she'd like to take a second chance with? "Gosh, that is a hard one. There has always been so much involved with the men in her life and you have to think, 'Do you want to go back to it?' Right now, Brooke is in an 'everything fresh' mode and she doesn't want to look back. She wants to go forward but who knows? Maybe she could rekindle something with a past flame, but it has to be on new terms."

Well, Deacon is still pining for a future with Brooke. "Yes, I know! If things were different, maybe there could be a possibility there but it's just too complicated at the moment. For now, it's not about finding someone else. It's about finding herself."

What did you think of the 35th anniversary episode when Brooke revisited her great loves? "I loved it! I was so excited, and it was so great to work again with Winsor [Harmon, ex-Thorne] and Jack [Wagner, ex-Nick].... Those were fun days. I loved looking back on all of that, and I think the show turned out beautifully. I was very honored."

What would you say is Brooke's greatest strength and greatest weakness? "I think her greatest strength is that she has a huge heart and at the same time, her greatest weakness is that she has a huge heart [*laughs*]!" □

ME VS. HER

■ **Who dresses better?** "Me. I like to mix in Benheart [from her Beverly Hills boutique], which is a leather look, mixed in with my kaftan tops under the jacket, and then with the boots. It all just mixes well."

Compare your style with Brooke's. "I have more of a California chic style than Brooke does. I'm not sure why but her style can sometimes get a little frumpy to me, a little more old-fashioned."

Who has the nicer house? "Me. I love my house. It's tucked way up in the mountains with nature and trees all around. It's awesome. I love it."

Hair Care: Brooke is more inventive with her 'dos than her alter ego.

Who has the better hairstyle? "That's hard to say. I do less with my hair in my real life. I pretty much keep it simple, but I like Brooke's hair. She tries different things and she'll do updos and then she'll do her down wave and stuff like that. I like Brooke's hair but I also like mine because it gives me more of a natural feeling and look. But if I had to choose, it would have to be Brooke."

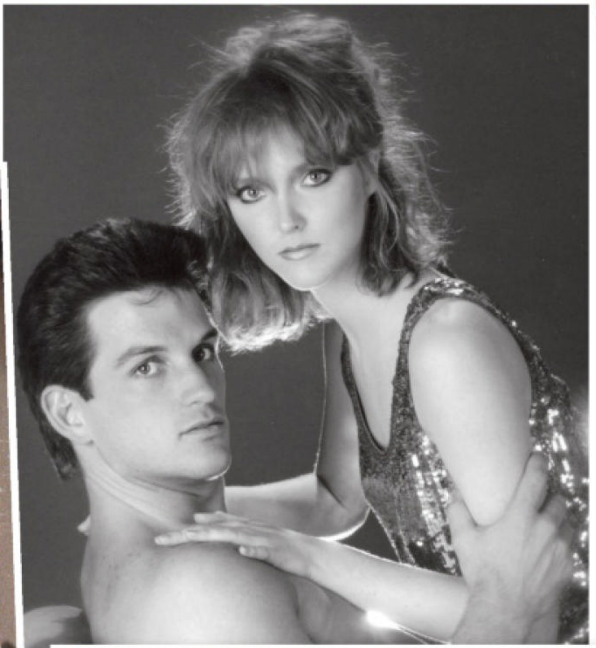
THIS WEEK IN SOAP OPERA HISTORY

Digest **looks back on standout moments from the past.**

On RYAN'S HOPE, Pat (Malcolm Groome) was flabbergasted when Delia (Ilene Kristen) announced that she was pregnant with his child on February 3, 1977.

ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES

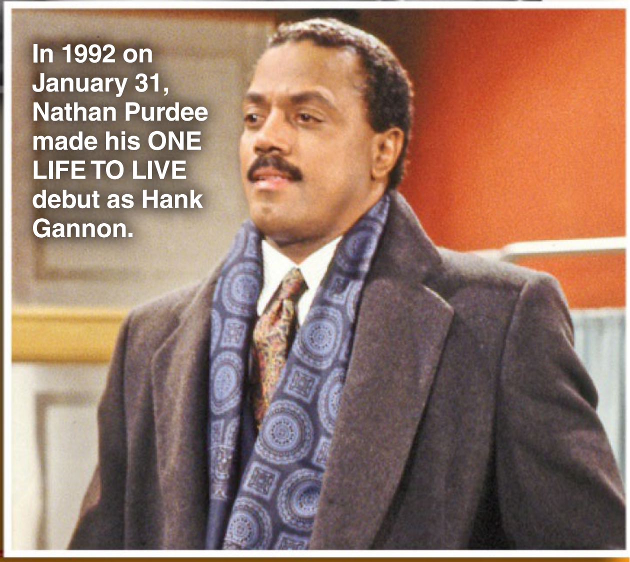
Tom Eplin (pictured with Ellen Wheeler as Vicky) began his ANOTHER WORLD run as Jake on February 4, 1985.



AL LEVINE/NBC

ALICE S. HALL/NBC

DAYS's Steve (Stephen Nichols) and a pregnant Kayla (Mary Beth Evans) attempted to wed legally on February 5, 1990, but the ceremony crashed to a halt when she was arrested for his first wife, Marina's, murder.



In 1992 on January 31, Nathan Purdee made his ONE LIFE TO LIVE debut as Hank Gannon.

ANN LIMONGELLO/ABC

On February 5, 1996, Sonny (Maurice Benard) and Lily (Lilly Melgar) tied the knot on GH.

JIM OBER/ABC

Nicole (Arianne Zucker) switched Mia and Sami's baby girls on DAYS on January 30, 2009.

PAUL SKIPPER/JPI

Nathan Parsons first appeared as GH's Ethan on January 30, 2009.

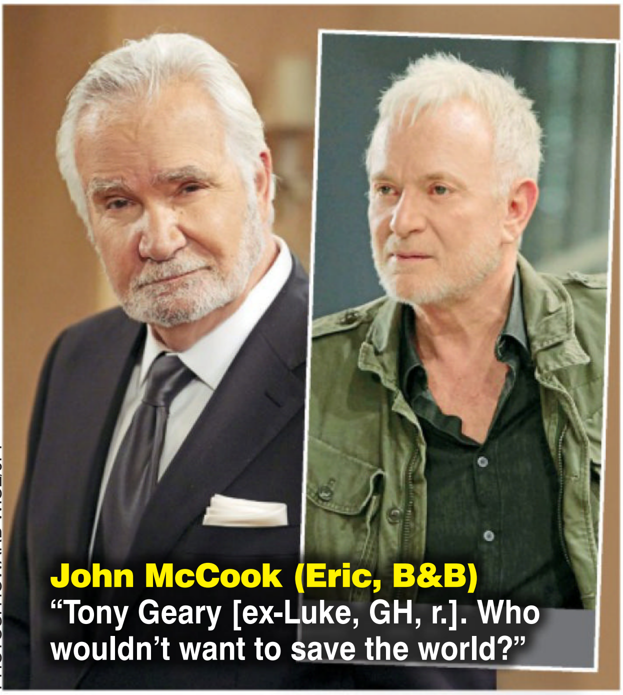
ADAM LARKEY/ABC

Both Billy Miller (ex-Billy, I.) and Michael Muhney (ex-Adam) exited Y&R on January 30, 2014.

SEAN SMITH/JPI

Q roundup

What other soap character



PHOTOS: HOWARD WISE/JPI

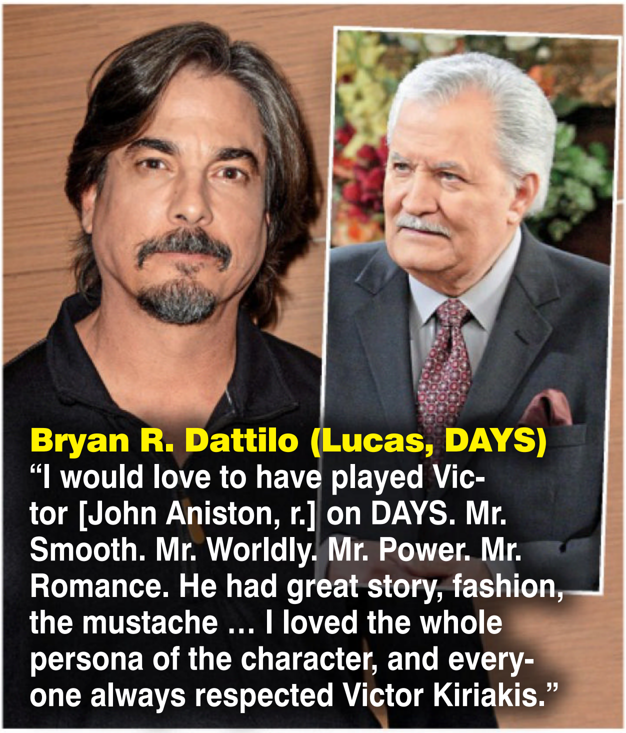
John McCook (Eric, B&B)
“Tony Geary [ex-Luke, GH, r.]. Who wouldn’t want to save the world?”

CRAIG SJODIN/ABC; CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Bonnie Burroughs (Gladys, GH)
“I can’t imagine any actress not wanting to play the part of Heather Webber on GH at the moment. What a fantastic character — she is bananas! But I don’t think I or anybody could do it better than Alley Mills [r.]. She is tearing it up!”

JILL JOHNSON/JPI; EVANS VESTAL WARD/PEACOCK

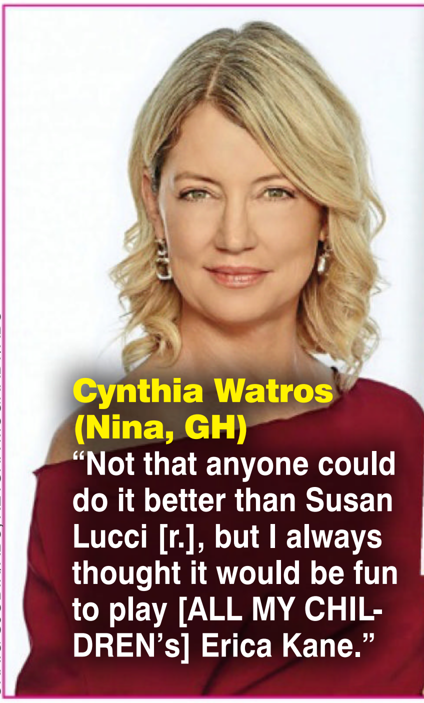
Billy Flynn (Chad, DAYS)
“Thomas Banks [Eileen Davidson] on DAYS. I understand his sense of humor and the things it takes to play that character. I think it would be very free and fun.”



SOUL B PHOTOS/SHUTTERSTOCK; PAUL SKIPPER/JPI

Bryan R. Dattilo (Lucas, DAYS)
“I would love to have played Victor [John Aniston, r.] on DAYS. Mr. Smooth. Mr. Worldly. Mr. Power. Mr. Romance. He had great story, fashion, the mustache … I loved the whole persona of the character, and everyone always respected Victor Kiriakis.”

would you love/have loved to play?



CRAIG SJODIN/ABC; KEYSHA MCGRADY/ABC

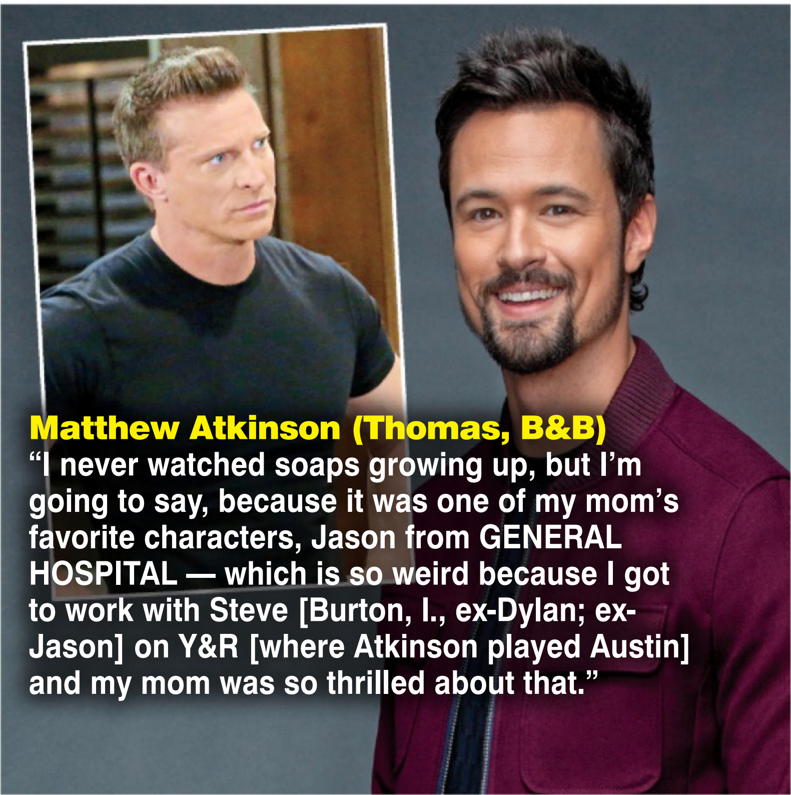
XJ JOHNSON/JPI

Cynthia Watros (Nina, GH)
"Not that anyone could do it better than Susan Lucci [r.], but I always thought it would be fun to play [ALL MY CHILDREN's] Erica Kane."

Nadia Bjorlin (Chloe, DAYS)
"Erica Kane. First of all, Susan Lucci. She had the most amazing career and the storytelling was great. Wasn't that character like Elizabeth Taylor and married, like,15 times? From everything I saw there was never a dull moment being Erica Kane, and she was so fabulous, too."

MICHAEL MATTES/SHUTTERSTOCK; CHRISTINE BARTOLUCCI/ABC

Stacy Haiduk (Kristen, DAYS)
"Laura [Genie Francis, l.] on GH. I loved Laura back when I was watching. She was just delightful and beautiful."



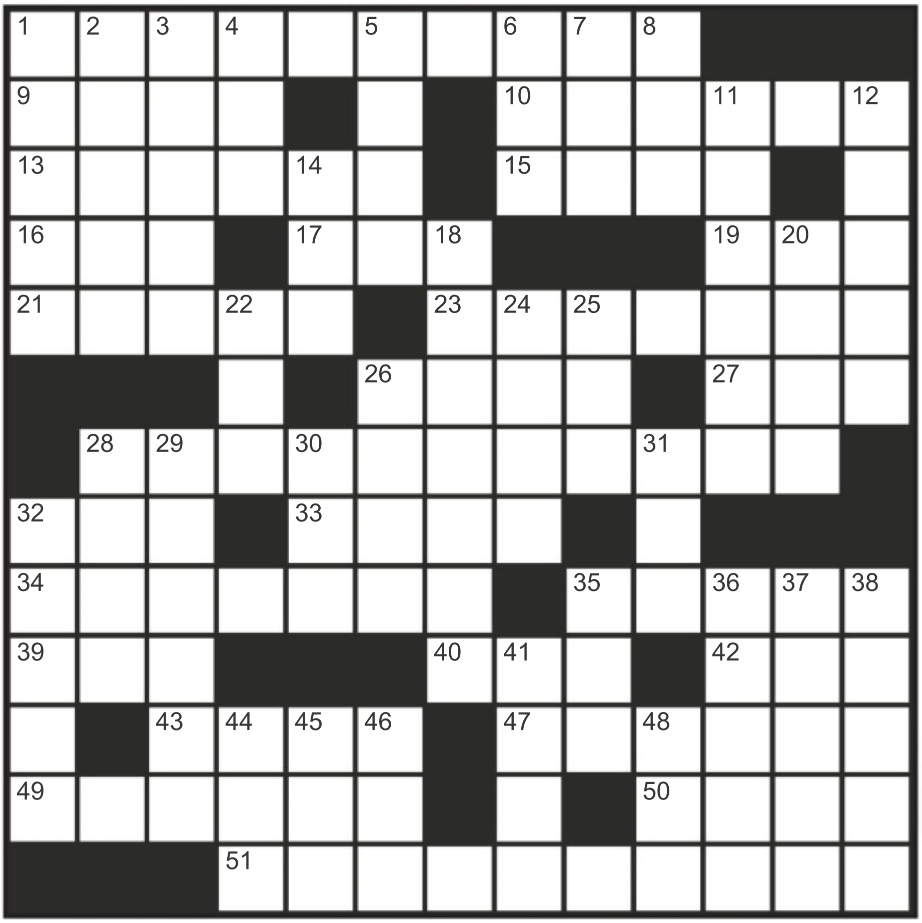
GILLES TOUCAS/COURTESY OF BELL-PHILLIP TELEVISION INC.

Matthew Atkinson (Thomas, B&B)
"I never watched soaps growing up, but I'm going to say, because it was one of my mom's favorite characters, Jason from GENERAL HOSPITAL — which is so weird because I got to work with Steve [Burton, l., ex-Dylan; ex-Jason] on Y&R [where Atkinson played Austin] and my mom was so thrilled about that."

crossword

BY DONNA HOKE

CRIME SPREE



ACROSS

1. *DAYS'S BELLE AND SHAWN, VIS-À-VIS CLAIRE*
9. Dutch cheese
10. *MURDER, BLACKMAIL, BABY STEALING ... SHE'S DONE IT ALL (B&B)*
13. *BURIED CARLY ALIVE (DAYS)*
15. "Crazy" bird
16. Magician's name ending
17. Aspen footwear?
19. Compete
21. DAYS's Bjorlin (Chloe)
23. *COMMITTED MULTIPLE INFRACTIONS AGAINST CHRISTINE (Y&R)*
26. Dog breed, Lhasa ___
27. Spy organization on DAYS
28. *GH'S ANNA USED TO BE THIS (two words)*
32. Story path
33. GH's late Sonya (Epiphany)
34. *KILLER WHO WAS BEN (DAYS)*
35. *SONNY HOOKED HER ON DRUGS (GH)*
39. D.C. campus in Foggy Bottom; abbr.
40. "Cock-a-doodle-___"
42. Brew pub option; abbr.
43. Designer Rabanne
47. Erica's daughter (ALL MY CHILDREN)
49. *SHE RAN DOWN DARLA (B&B)*
50. Knowing, as a secret (two words)
51. *Y&R'S VICTOR NOT ONLY LOCKED MICHAEL SCOTT IN A BASEMENT BOMB SHELTER, BUT DID THIS AS WELL (three words)*

DOWN

1. *HE PREYED ON LILY (Y&R)*
2. *Frozen* star Menzel
3. Y&R's Hasselhoff (ex-Snapper)
4. Abbr. between a first and last name, sometimes
5. "Shocking" color
6. Immigrant's class; abbr.
7. Fraternity letter
8. Google hits booster, in webspeak
11. To no avail (two words)
12. Sonny's mother (GH)
14. ONE LIFE TO LIVE patriarch
18. Got in the way of
20. Superlative suffix
22. GH area; abbr.
24. "Because _ __ so!" (two words)
25. Gear component
26. Discount grocery chain headquartered in Germany
28. GH's Cheetwood (Milo)
29. Protest movement launched in 2011, familiarly
30. Lay odds
31. ___ Longoria (ex-Isabella, Y&R)
32. A teenager may

Answers can be found in the next issue.

sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. You can't change the digits already provided in the grid; you have to work around them.

		4				6		1
					5		4	
	3				4	8	2	5
				5		4	9	
	4			7			6	
	5	7		2				
9	1	3	5				8	
	7		6					
8		6				1		

have it
35. Auspicious fishes
36. DAYS's Lisa (ex-Billie)
37. Attraction in Walt Disney World
38. Delhi breads
41. "Duh"
44. "Ha! I kill me!" alien
45. GH's Lucy
46. Chicago hub, on luggage tags
48. Balloon filler

ANSWERS FROM LAST ISSUE

J	U	L	I	E	■	■	S	H	E	I	L	A
A	■	I	N	G	E	N	U	E	■	M	E	L
D	O	N	N	A	■	A	P	R	■	A	N	A
A	D	D	O	N	■	B	R	E	G	M	A	N
■	I	■	■	■	I	S	A	■	R	■	■	B
L	E	E	A	N	N	■	■	M	E	O	N	E
O	■	C	R	O	S	S	O	V	E	R	■	A
V	E	G	A	N	■	■	U	P	T	O	W	N
E	■	■	I	■	P	I	T	■	■	■	H	■
B	A	L	D	W	I	N	■	U	P	T	O	P
O	B	I	■	I	N	A	■	S	A	R	A	H
A	B	S	■	F	E	N	M	O	R	E	■	A
T	R	A	C	E	Y	■	■	S	C	O	T	T

BEHIND the SCENES!

Scene & Heard

TAKIN' IT TO THE SHEETS

On DAYS, **Robert Scott Wilson**'s Ben once battled **Billy Flynn**'s Chad for Abigail's affections, and now Wilson's Alex and Chad are both interested in **Abigail Klein**'s Stephanie. Grins Wilson, "It's always fun going head-to-head with old Billy. We did it for a long time with Chad, Abigail and Ben. It's nice to be doing it as Alex now. I always love working with Billy. It's almost like déjà vu sometimes when we're squaring off." Alex and Stephanie recently consummated their attraction and while love scenes are familiar territory for Wilson, he admits, "I still get nervous. It's still nerve-racking, especially with somebody new. She'd never had one of those scenes before," he says of Klein. "I just wanted to make sure she was comfortable. That was my main priority. I just wanted her to know that she was in a safe space. It's one thing to talk about it, but when you lay down and you're in your underwear or lingerie, it kind of all hits you and you've got three cameras [pointed at you]." Before they taped, he let Klein in on some of the tricks of his trade, "like tucking in sheets in certain places," Wilson shares. "I tuck sheets into my underwear sometimes just to keep any slips from happening. It just lessens the amount of risk for everybody, makes it look good, and you know it's going to be tasteful."

DAYS's Robert shared his love scene expertise with Abigail.

MICHAEL MATTES/SHUTTERSTOCK

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Christian J. LeBlanc (Michael, Y&R) got the chance to become better acquainted with a few B&B colleagues when he accompanied them to a cancer fundraiser in Louisiana. "**Katherine** [**Kelly Lang**, Brooke] knew I was raised in New Orleans and called me out of the blue to ask if I could tag along," explains the actor. "I guess this event had been going on for years, so I was like, 'Why have I never heard of this? Yes, I'd love to go!' " Also participating were **Jennifer Gareis** (Donna), **Scott Clifton** (Liam) and **Matthew Atkinson** (Thomas). "I've known those guys for years and what I love about going to these events is getting to hang out together," LeBlanc shares. "It's so much fun, like going to adult camp. Louisiana is my land and those are my people, so I enjoyed introducing them to the food and culture. At one point, Scott and Matt said to me, 'Whoa, your accent really comes out,' and I was like, 'I've never had an accent!' even though I'm talking with a thick Cajun accent in no time. We all ended up in the Superdome for a Saints game. I'm not a big football fan but I'll stay in a suite where there's food. We snuck out at halftime and went to the Sazerac Bar, which is this gorgeous art deco bar in the Roosevelt Hotel. I even took Scott out crayfishing one day for his first time. We all ended up having a ball together and I'll happily do that charity again in a minute — even though I'll put on 10 extra pounds by the time I leave."

Y&R's Christian (r.) had a thrill hanging out with B&B's Katherine and Scott.

INSTAGRAM/LANG

Bradford Exclusive!

Treetop Chorus

Sculptural Clock

Actual bird song on the hour!

Over 1½ Feet high!

Welcome the happiness into your home

SEVEN sweet songbirds hand-cast and hand-painted in nature's truest hues

●

Every hour, thrill to the sound of actual bird song

●

The look of fine hand-carved wood, inspired by Bavarian collectibles

●

Gold-toned clock face boasts fancy stencil look

●

Precision quartz accuracy

Bradford Exchange Exclusive order now!

Act now to acquire your *Treetop Chorus* Sculptural Clock in four installments of only $44.99, for a total of just $179.99*, backed by our 365-day money-back guarantee. Send no money now. Mail the Reservation Application today!

Shown smaller than actual size of about 20 inches high.
Requires 1 AA and 3 AAA batteries, not included.
Includes volume control. Arrives ready to hang.

ORDER TODAY AT
BRADFORDEXCHANGE.COM/TREETOP

Where Passion Becomes Art ©2023 BGE 01-26092-001-DIM1R

The Bradford Exchange · Since 1973 ·

RESERVATION APPLICATION
SEND NO MONEY NOW

The Bradford Exchange
9345 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve the *Treetop Chorus* Sculptural Clock for me as described in this announcement. Please Respond Promptly

*Plus a total of $22.99 shipping and service; see bradfordexchange.com Limited-edition presentation restricted to 295 casting days. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Mrs. Mr. Ms. ____________________
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address ____________________

City ________ State ________ Zip ________

Email (optional) ____________________

01-26092-001-E97802

MY Wedding ALBUM

Rachel Melvin (ex-Chelsea, DAYS) opens up about her nuptials nightmare.

By Stephanie Sloane

Meet Cute: "Kevin and I met at Home Depot, standing in line at the checkout. He and his best friend, James, were in front of me and I got a splinter in my finger and I was with my friend Laura and I was complaining about it. They overheard me and then they offered to try to take it out with tweezers that they had in the car. I was like, 'I'm not gonna go back to some random guy's car,' but then they ended up getting it out of my finger just with their fingers. And then they were like, 'You guys wanna go out for drinks tonight?' And I said no and Laura made me go because I didn't know anyone in the desert. I ended up hitting it off with James, who's gay, so it was not romantic. And then I hung out with James for, like, a year, and kind of ignored and avoided Kevin because everyone kept trying to set us up. And then a year or so later, I had this weird sound bath experience — this sounds so hippie — where I was trying to get clarity about my career. And instead I got clarity about the person I was supposed to marry. The image was of this person whose face I couldn't see, but they rode a motorcycle and were very sensitive but tough and good with their hands and blah, blah, blah, and I already knew them. And then one day I matched with Kevin on Tinder and it was like a light bulb/'Eureka!' moment and I was like, 'Oh, my God, it's him,' and then it ended up being him."

You're Cordially INVITED

Who:
Rachel Melvin (ex-Chelsea, DAYS) and Kevin Barrett

Where:
Joshua Tree, CA

When:
October 15, 2022

The Proposal: "I told him I'm not a wedding person. I told him I didn't want anyone around, I wanted it to be very low-key. It was supposed to take place on my birthday but Mark Hapka [ex-Nathan, DAYS] is my best friend, and Kevin wanted him there. Mark had to be back in L.A. on February 9, which is my birthday. So, Kevin and Mark had been talking for a week leading up to it, trying to create this clever, cute way and it all kind of came to a head on the 8th. We have an outdoor movie theater, and I thought we were starting to watch a movie but it was a video that Kevin and Mark had been working on of all of our family members and friends, giving a video message that they compiled wishing me a happy birthday. And then the second half of the video they played after Kevin proposed, which was all of them congratulating me on the proposal and all that other stuff. So it was really cool."

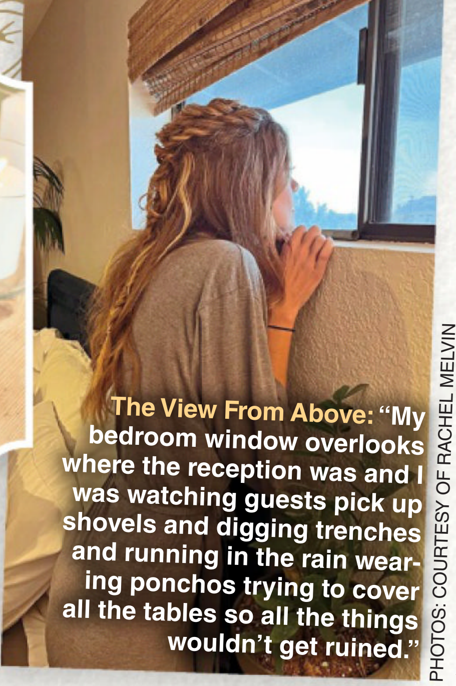
Planning Stages: "I said maybe we should just elope like everyone else, but that was because of Covid. We thought, 'No, let's just actually have a wedding next year where we can see everybody again, maybe Covid will calm down.' It was kind of like *Sex and the City*, the movie. I saw the dress and then everything just spiraled from there and it became this big event that I don't think either of us ever really wanted, but we got excited because we got to build our venue and decorate and design, which is something we're really focusing on. And we got caught up in it, like, 'Hey, this is the venue we built and we're also getting married and everyone's here for the first time to see where we've been living because no one's come to see.' So I found the dress and then we started looking at florals and then we had the photographer. We wanted to do dinner and the whole thing was supposed to be in celebration of my grandma, who really loved Kevin and didn't live to see the proposal, but she really, really wanted us to get married while she was alive. So, we were gonna do a whole pasta dinner and I was

WILD HONEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Guest Book
CORONA

WILD HONEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Just Thrifty: The duo checked out thrift stores to find vintage items, like this typewriter, which held a message about the guest book.



The View From Above: "My bedroom window overlooks where the reception was and I was watching guests pick up shovels and digging trenches and running in the rain wearing ponchos trying to cover all the tables so all the things wouldn't get ruined."

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF RACHEL MELVIN

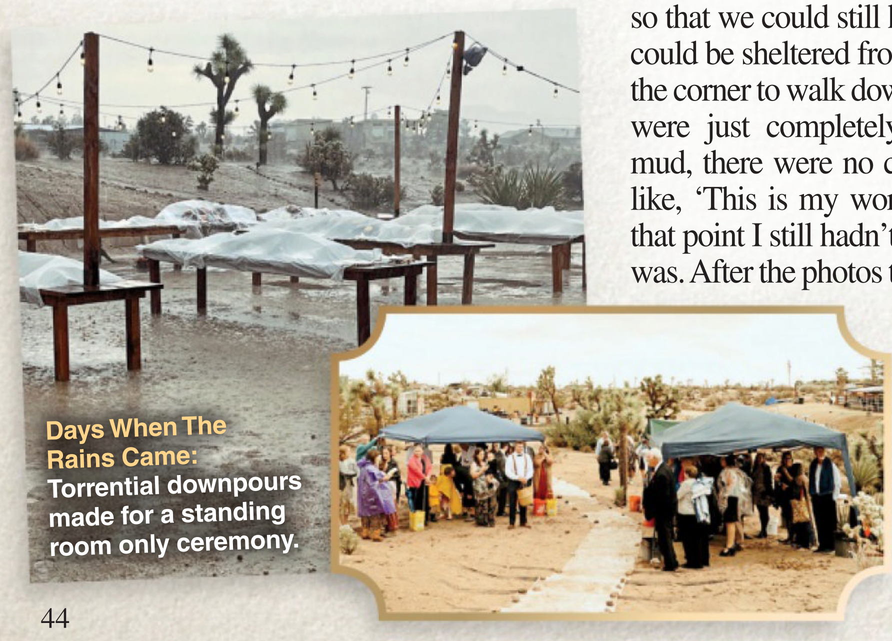
gonna make all the pasta from scratch, using all her recipes so that we felt like she was there and everything was so nuanced and inclusive. And we were really excited."

* * *

Prep Work: "We had rented a dance floor and chairs; we had a DJ come out from L.A. and we put together and compiled all these songs that meant something to either us or our guests. For the D.I.Y. stuff, we had hired a florist, but for the tablescape, we had been thrifting for all these antiques because my grandfather loved secondhand shopping, so that was a nod to him. We found all these candlesticks and old picture frames and we designed our own signs. Kevin is very good with technical stuff, so he had bought a projector and lights and put together this wonderful slideshow that was supposed to play during dinner. Everything was so orchestrated and set up to completely succeed."

* * *

Storm Watch: "We knew that there was going to be a storm, but it wasn't supposed to happen until Tuesday and we were getting married on Saturday, so we thought we were fine. Of course, Friday was a beautiful, sunny day and Sunday was a beautiful, sunny day and Saturday started out to be a beautiful, sunny day and then right at 4:30, down to the minute we were supposed to get married, is when the storm clouds broke. My bedroom window overlooks where the reception was and I was watching guests pick up shovels and digging trenches and running in the rain wearing ponchos trying to cover all the tables so all the things wouldn't get ruined. When there is a flash flood in the desert, it's not so much about the actual rain, it's about the aftermath. We had puddles or lakes underneath all of the tables, so there was no way we were gonna be able to eat. People were building tents so that we could still have a ceremony and they could be sheltered from the rain. When I turned the corner to walk down the aisle, all the runners were just completely obliterated, covered in mud, there were no chairs, nothing, and I was like, 'This is my worst nightmare.' And up to that point I still hadn't seen how bad everything was. After the photos that we tried to take before we ran out of light, Kevin and I jumped in the golf cart, and as we were driving like back to the reception area, I just saw all these trenches and mud and uneven ground and it started to

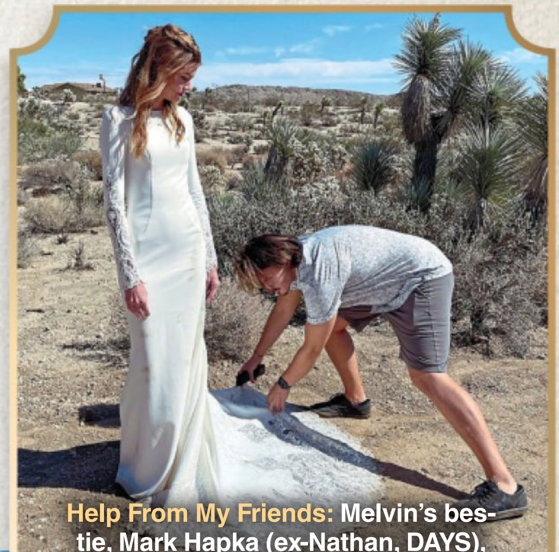


Days When The Rains Came: Torrential downpours made for a standing room only ceremony.

sprinkle again. And so everyone panicked and brought everything upstairs into the main house, which we didn't expect. So we had 100 people pile into our main house, which is only, like, 1,700 square feet; it's not built to accommodate that many people. I think it was really awkward for everyone because they didn't know how I would react, but for me it wasn't like, 'Oh, my wedding day is ruined.' We still got married, I was still with the people I loved, but for us it was more superficial, which sounds terrible. We were just like, 'Oh, this big event that we worked and planned for for nine months just got ruined in 15 minutes.' So that was a bummer. There was always this stage direction in my soap script: crestfallen. 'Chelsea is crestfallen.' I never knew what that meant until my wedding day. I was just like, 'Oh, this is that feeling.' We were so distracted by that, that I don't really feel like we were able to be fully present in the way that most brides and grooms are."

Sweet Treat: The newlyweds cut the cake the day after the wedding. "We danced and we had a brunch and we were able to cut the cake and we took a few more bridal photos in the daytime. And that was also really great to just see how many people loved us enough to hang around and come back for a part two."

The Aftermath: "We were looking at the photos that we got a couple of days ago, and our guests just looked like they had the best time. So I guess we're grateful for the story. I'd be lying if I said there wasn't a level of embarrassment, which is so ridiculous because we did nothing wrong. I mean, no one can control the weather, but I think we felt really embarrassed and ashamed because we really had just isolated ourselves for nine months and we missed family gatherings and celebrations to really work on making this an incredible event that everyone just really enjoyed."

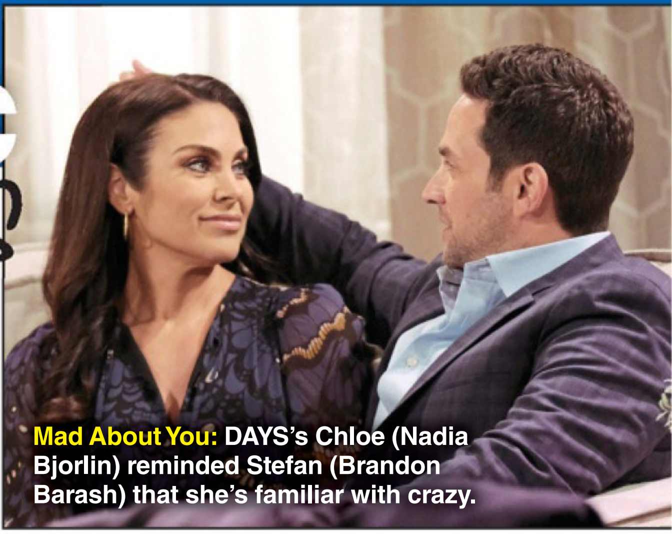

Help From My Friends: Melvin's bestie, Mark Hapka (ex-Nathan, DAYS), helped her fix her dress for the day-after celebration.

PEACOCK • PEACOCK

But Wait, There's More! "Eight days after the wedding, we decided to be social and we went to an event in town where we contracted Covid for the first time. We successfully avoided it for two years, then got Covid three days before we were supposed to leave for our honeymoon. I got it a little bit worse than Kevin, but there was no way, even if we weren't contagious, that we were getting on a plane to Thailand. Then our dog almost died and then the day after that, our water main broke. And then Kevin broke his leg a week after that. It got to the point where we were genuinely afraid to wake up the next morning, because we didn't know what was gonna happen. But it felt like all these things kept happening to get us to laugh because the minute it got so ridiculous that we had to laugh is the minute it all stopped. It wasn't until we got sick and became very vulnerable and had neighbors offer to bring us soup and watch our dogs and drive us places, just out of the kindness of their hearts, that our eyes were opened up to the bigger picture. I realized I am so blessed and have so much good in my life. And I've been focusing on all the things that I think make a life good and well-lived and successful, but I'm missing what actually does. So I actually feel a lot more full and grateful and present and at peace since everything happened." ☐

classic lines

Forget NIGHT COURT! Some Of TV's Funniest Lines Are On Soaps.



Mad About You: DAYS's Chloe (Nadia Bjorlin) reminded Stefan (Brandon Barash) that she's familiar with crazy.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

(Katie and Carter discuss Sheila's surprise arrest.)
Katie: "Well, one thing is for sure. I did not have Sheila gets arrested at Bill's house on my bingo card."

DAYS OF OUR LIVES

(Leo greets Victor on Christmas morning.)
Leo: "How do Christmas mornings work around here? When do we open the gifts?"
Victor: "About an hour after we throw you out on your sugarplum ass."

(Stefan reads a guidebook.)
Stefan: "It says here Miami gets crazy on New Year's Eve. You ready for crazy?"
Chloe: "I mean, I am from Salem, aren't I?"

GENERAL HOSPITAL

(Maxie quizzes Brook Lynn about her troubles with Chase.)
Brook Lynn: "What makes you think it wasn't Chase who messed up?"
Maxie: "Oh, Brook Lynn. I love you, but Chase is basically a Boy Scout in a man's body."
(After their talk, Brook Lynn comes to a realization.)
Brook Lynn: "Oh, God. I'm in love with Chase."
Maxie: "She says, like I didn't say that exact thing to her."

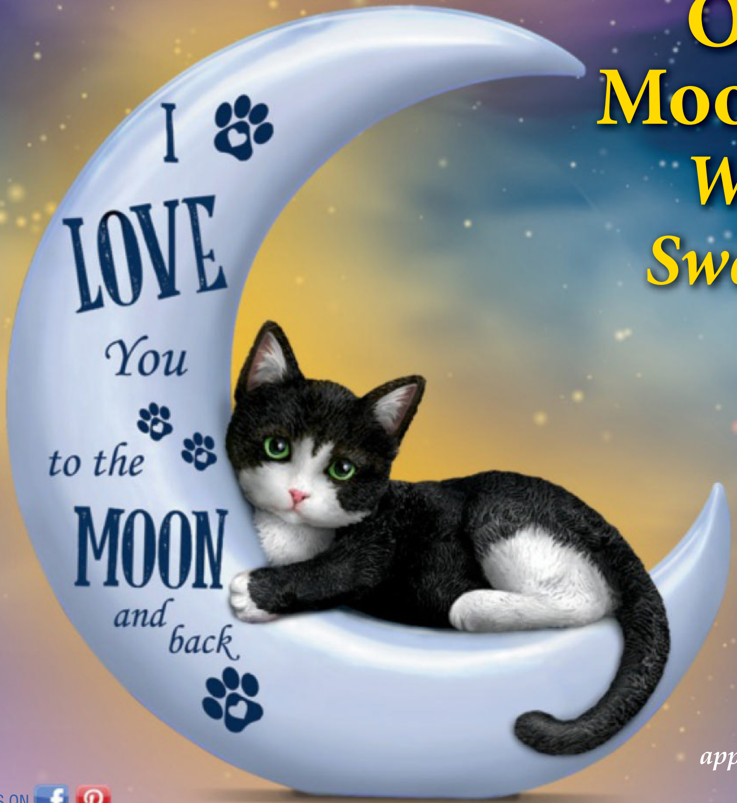
(Sasha queries Chase about why he changed his mind and showed up at the Gingerbread Jam.)
Sasha: "We were all worried you weren't going to show for the performance and then there you were, last minute."
Chase: "Very astute."
Sasha: "I try."
Chase: "I found out Brook Lynn did something for me."
Sasha: "Very vague."
Chase: "I try."

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

(Mariah makes fun of Sharon's tacky holiday display.)
Mariah: "It's kind of an eyesore."
Sharon: "No, don't say that. Nick gave it to me when we spent our first Christmas together. And he meant it as a joke, and it always made me laugh."
Mariah: "Well, that is just like him, making dad jokes before he was even a dad."

(Billy assures Chelsea of his support during her emotional recovery.)
Billy: "I'm happy to hear that you're listening to your doctor. That should always be your first line of defense. But just know that I will be there waiting in the backfield just in case anything gets through. What I mean is, I will always be there for you, just in case anything slips through the cracks."
Chelsea: "I get it. I know football."

Over the Moon in Love *With Your Sweet Feline!*



A First-Ever Premiere from Blake Jensen!

BLAKE JENSEN

Shown smaller than approximate size of 4½″ high

LIKE US ON

A "purr-ecious" new keepsake that's out of this world!

Curious and playful, your darling cat fills your heart with tender affection every day. And as a cat lover, your sweet devotion is unconditional — you would go to the moon and back for your friendship!

Now celebrate your "fur-ever" bond with **"I Love You To The Moon And Back,"** a limited-edition premiere by artist Blake Jensen starring a "purr-ecious" kitty whose love for you is written in the stars! You'll love her serene pose, tuxedo coloring and cute pink button nose! Plus she's adorably posed atop her own pearlescent moon graced with paw prints and a tender sentiment that celebrates your love!

Enjoy a 30-day FREE PREVIEW!

Limited to 95 casting days, your issue is numbered and includes a Certificate of Authenticity. Your satisfaction is guaranteed or your money back. Strong demand is expected, so act now for your **FREE PREVIEW**!

Fastest way to order:
HamiltonCollection.com/CatMoon

©2018 HC All Rights Reserved.

09-07587-001-DIM1

MAIL TO:

The Hamilton Collection
9204 Center For The Arts Drive, Niles, Illinois 60714-1300

Send No Money Now!

☐**YES!** Please accept my order for **"I Love You To The Moon And Back"** for the low issue price of just $39.99*. **I need send no money now.** I will be billed with shipment.

***Add $8.99 for shipping and service; see HamiltonCollection.com. Deliveries to FL and IL will be billed appropriate sales tax.** For information on sales tax you may owe to your state, go to HamiltonCollection.com/use-tax. *All orders are subject to product availability and credit approval.* Allow 6 to 8 weeks for shipment.

Name____
(Please print clearly.)

Address______________________________________

City____________________State_____ Zip_______

Email (optional)_________________________________

Signature____________________________________

09-07587-001-E97804

INMATING S

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL

Kimberlin Brown

(Sheila)

GILLES TOUCAS/COURTESY OF BELL-PHILLIP TELEVISION INC.

How do you adjust your look when Sheila is behind bars? "You know, the orange jumpsuit is a little different than the blue one. When I was in the orange jumpsuit, it's like, 'I'm in prison now' — and that's when there is no makeup, no powder, nothing. I'm not one of those actresses who feels that I need to be pretty for everything. Evil is not pretty. I let hair and makeup and wardrobe decide how I need to look that day. That's not my call. In our recent scenes with Steffy and Finn, they look like a million bucks and I look like I just came in from the rain. I'm so okay with that."

In terms of your performance, what is it like being confined to a jail set? "You know what I love about it? I know my blocking. I'm handcuffed to a table, so I don't have to worry about hitting my mark or looking for my lighting or anything like that. The one great thing about being confined in a cell or an interrogation room is your movement is confined. It makes it so you can concentrate on what you have to say within that scene versus whatever movements you have to go with it."

Sheila has escaped many a time. When a story starts, do you ever wonder how she's going to get out? "Always! The one thing I can say about my character is, 'Get ready, the best is yet to come.' You never know what she's going to do next and in all honesty, Kimberlin doesn't know what she is going to do next, either."

Does it surprise you that Sheila always seems to get away with it? "Always. I don't know until I get the script and it is just as shocking to me as it is for the audience. I love to be thrown from the frying pan into the fire, and Sheila is definitely in the fire right now."

How do you explain the lack of security that enables her to constantly slip away from the law? "When you know people in the right places, things tend to happen."

Let's talk about Sheila's various accomplices behind bars. In 1995, Ellen Wheeler played her cellmate, Sarah, who let Sheila get released in her place.

EASON

Four soap jailbirds dish about (fictional) prison life.

Dressed Down: Whether she's in orange or blue, Brown doesn't go for the glam when Sheila's in the clink.

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI; HOWARD WISE/JPI

"Ellen Wheeler was fabulous! Talk about an incredibly talented woman. It was a thrill to act opposite her and being my buddy in the psych ward. Years later, I played her cohort [Shelly] on ANOTHER WORLD [where Wheeler played Marley]. She actually asked me if I wanted to play that, and it was so much fun. Ellen was a joy to work with."

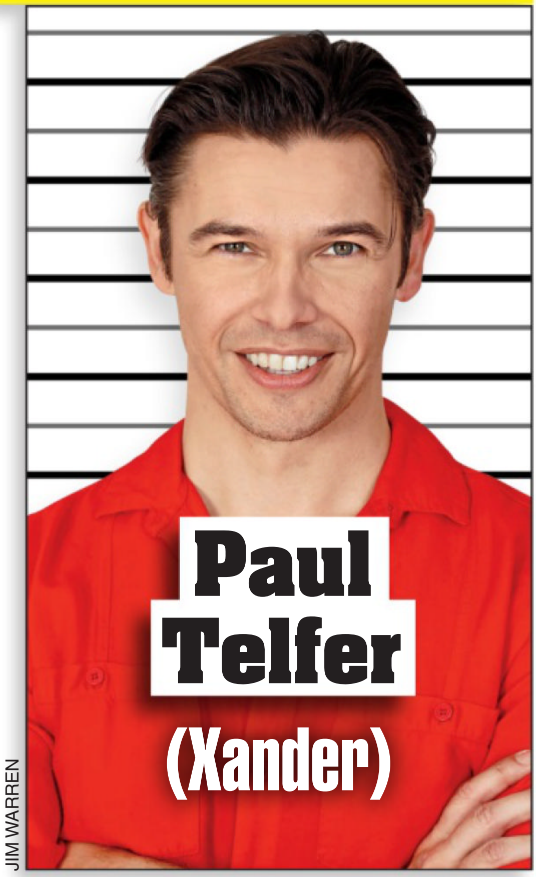
What about Peg London (ex-Cybil, 1998)? "It's a walk down escape lane! Unfortunately, her character was used but back then, Sheila would say anything to get what she wanted."

In 2003, Robin Mattson played Sugar, the prison warden who aided in Sheila's escape. What was that like? "Robin played Sugar brilliantly. She brought color to a character that was so interesting to watch, and [made you] wonder about the relationship between her and Sheila. The fire behind Robin's eyes was enormous. It was one of those relationships that left the audience wondering who had who. She was powerful in that role. No doubt about it."

And we have to mention Ken Hanes (Mike). What has it been like to reconnect with him? "I could not have been happier to work with him again. Are you kidding me? He was so prominent, and he is such an incredible man, and he brings so much color to our scenes. It's almost like he is a modern-day Dick Van Dyke. Even in the most intense scenes, he can find a comic [side]. He makes it fun, and sometimes it's hard for me to keep a straight face because Mike wants to make Sheila smile, as well."

What is Sheila's mantra regarding jail time? "Sheila will always find a way to maintain her freedom, no matter what it takes."

DAYS OF OUR LIVES



Paul Telfer (Xander)

JIM WARREN

Xander's been in jail multiple times. Was there ever a prison sentence you felt was particularly harsh? "The first time, I was really panicked about it. It was when they put me in jail in Greece. I was like, 'Wow. I'm not just in jail, I'm in jail in another country.' But even then they managed to break me out, so I could come over and do something mischievous [in Salem], and then go back to prison over there. I'm the opposite — I'm always amazed that Xander's sentences are so lenient. Nothing ever seems to stick for that long."

What's your take on how easily people get sprung from prison on DAYS? "I'm not complaining, because that tends to work out well for Xander. I imagine if you're one of the cop characters, like Galen [Gering, Rafe] or Elia [Cantu, Jada], it must be really frustrating, because they finally catch somebody, then two weeks later they're back out again, whereas if you're a criminal like Xander or Kristen or any of the other baddies, long may it continue."

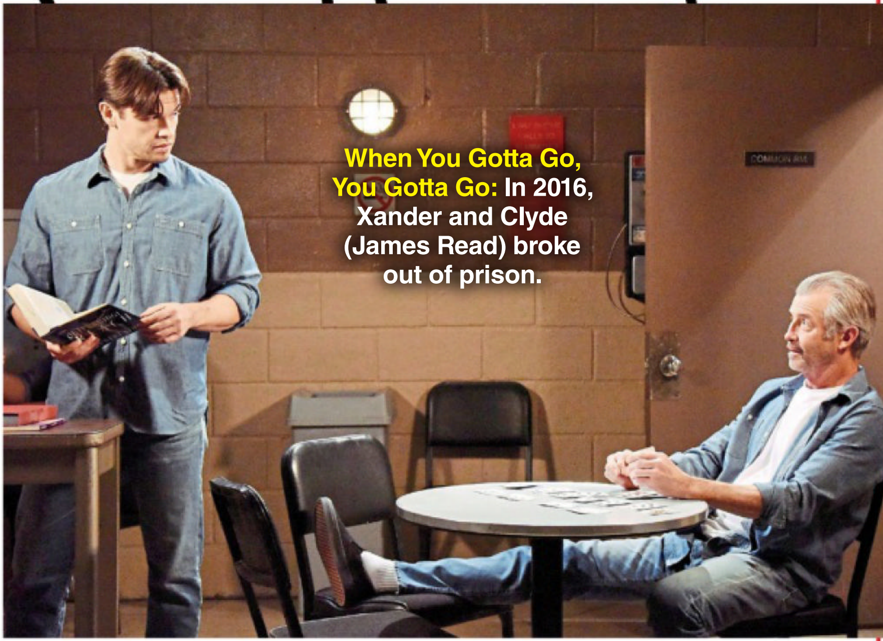
Did you ever worry about how you would get out of jail or how the show would redeem you? "I used to really worry about those things. It's not that I'm more confident or secure now; I still stress about unemployment. It used to be when I was sent off to prison I'd be like, 'Woe is me. That's it for a few months.' But now I'm just as likely to have more work from in jail than when I'm out free and loose, so it doesn't bother me anymore. I actually enjoy prison stuff. They're fun scenes to play. They make me tough again. When I'm out in the world, most times I'm trying to pretend to be nice. In prison I can just be nasty again."

Do you remember what Xander's harshest sentence was? "The worst time was when he was sent away for something he didn't do. It was when Theresa lied that he had sexually assaulted her. That was when I first left the show. They had locked him up and thrown away the key for a bit. But, luckily, he escaped with Clyde and Orpheus, the other big baddie. That was my first [realization] like, 'Okay, they'll fix this really quick.' "

How do you feel about the lax security at Statesville Prison? "I hope they never shore up the security. The stories wouldn't work if we had real security at the prison."

Did you ever have to wear an orange jumpsuit during your prison stints? "I only had to wear that once, and I remember it was kind of a miserable experience. It was right at the beginning of my run on DAYS. There were scenes with me and Melissa Archer [ex-Serena]. I'm not sure if they even aired. It was a dream sequence that Nicole or one of the other characters had, envisioning us in jumpsuits cleaning up Horton Town Square.

They put me in this orange jumpsuit, and they're like onesies, right? All one piece. If you're tall and it doesn't fit just right, it can be really uncomfortable, especially on a man. The pictures are on the Internet somewhere. You'll see that I'm hunched over, because I'm trying not to castrate myself."



When You Gotta Go, You Gotta Go: In 2016, Xander and Clyde (James Read) broke out of prison.

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

On a scale of one-10, how uncomfortable was the thin mattress you had to sit on in your cell? "I like the mattress, personally. I like a futon. So that doesn't bother me at all. It's more comfortable than the couch in the Horton house, I'll tell you that. I'm not huge, but I'm not small either. It was very small for me to be sleeping on for weeks on the show."

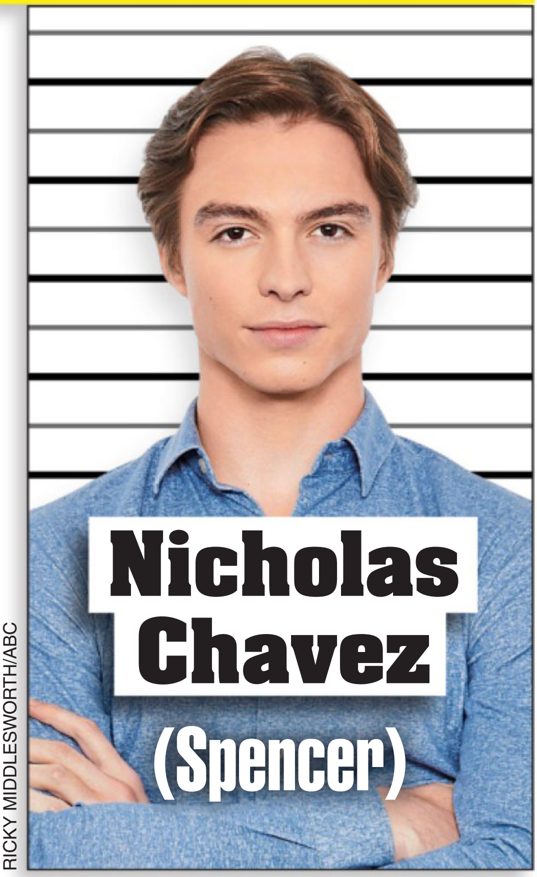
Was it frustrating to have to do all your scenes on the same set? "That doesn't bother me so much. We're all inside all the time here. It's not like you're really out in a wide open space when you're at the park with the fake trees. If we did actual location shoots, then maybe I'd have pangs for that."

Is it strange at all when you have to work with all new people in prison, as opposed to your usual scene partners? "There's always this moment of feeling each other out whenever you're working with a new cast member, or a veteran cast member who you hadn't worked with before, but there's also some fun that can come from that, because you can be surprised and find some unexpected stuff. I like getting to build a rapport quickly with people and trying to find angles that you can poke at and get something out of somebody. I always enjoy that."

Does anything else stand out about your prison experiences? "There was one time I got to work with Drake [Hogestyn, John], when Christopher Sean [ex-Paul] was on the show. They came all the way over to Greece to visit Xander in this Greek prison to get some information from him. They were trying to intimidate Xander, but that was back when he was just a tough guy, just a thug. There was this great moment where Christopher Sean, in rehearsal, lunged in toward me, and I didn't react at all. As soon as we broke from rehearsal, before we shot it, he was like, 'You're not going to give me anything there, huh?' I said, 'Nah, Xander's a tough guy. He doesn't scare easily.' We both giggled at each other, and he was like, 'Okay, fine.' He took it in good humor."

Do you miss anything about prison when Xander isn't behind bars? "No [*laughs*]. There's no aspect of the soap prison life that I miss. I'm looking forward to Xander staying out of it for a while, hopefully."

GENERAL HOSPITAL


Nicholas Chavez (Spencer)

RICKY MIDDLESWORTH/ABC

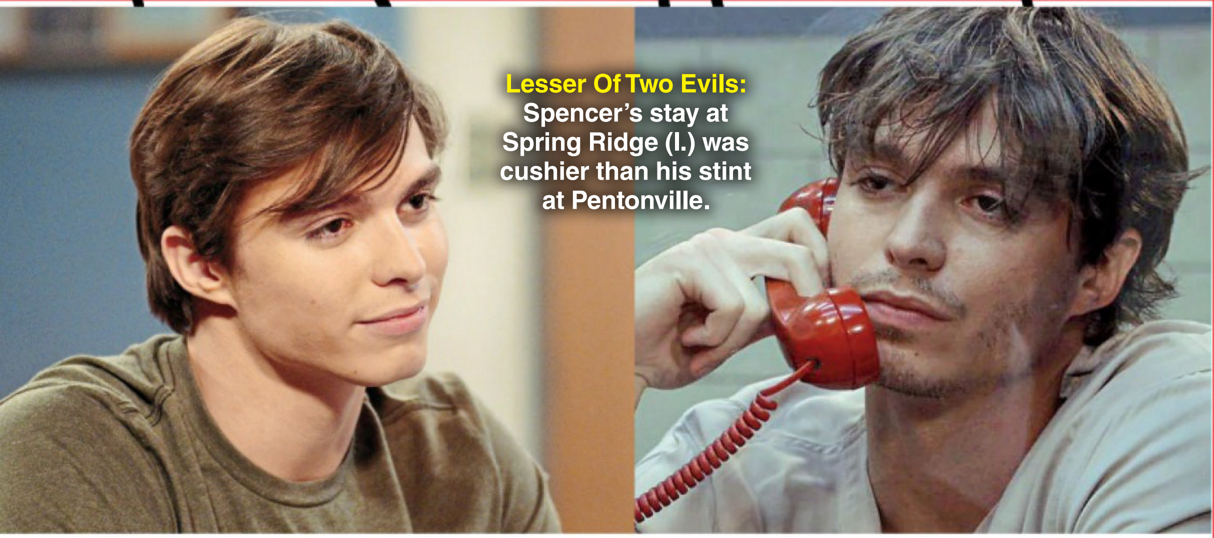
In 2022, Spencer served time at two different facilities, Spring Ridge and Pentonville. Which one do you think he'd give a more favorable Yelp review? "The facilities are certainly nicer at Spring Ridge, right? It's minimum security, there's no glass separating him from his visitors, you're all able to kind of hang out in one space. I would say if I was going to choose where I was gonna spend a weekend, I'd definitely want to spend it in Spring Ridge, as opposed to Pentonville."

How would you rate the wardrobe for each place? "The wardrobe in Spring Ridge was more of a 'sweatpants and a T-shirt' type of deal, which was nice and cozy. Spring Ridge was more like stay-away camp than anything else, you know what I mean? It was like a spa day, basically! You can't really compare the nice, comfy sweats to the ill-fitting Pentonville jumpsuit!"

Spencer had a decent number of visitors while serving time, but he certainly felt isolated from the goings-on on the outside. Did you, as an actor, ever feel a similar sense of isolation because you weren't interacting with the full scope of actors you normally work with? "No, because I know that over the course of the years that I'm on the show, I'll get to interact with tons of people, so I'm just grateful to be working with who I'm working with at that time. Jeff Kober [Cyrus] and I had never worked together before Pentonville and then we got to do a lot of really great scenes together. I really enjoyed working with Jeff. He's such a fantastic actor and I thought it was very cool, because he and I both won Emmys this past year, for us to get to share so many scenes together. I think he's brilliant. He's a really sharp actor who has a lot of ideas and this incredible ability to be present in a scene."

I particularly loved the scenes with Spencer, Cyrus and Victor, his two powerful but shady great-uncles. "I thought those played out so awesomely! It was very cool the way they did that, and they gave me some dialogue that really set it up nicely when I lean in to Victor and tell him, 'You may be all-powerful on the outside, but you have competition in here.' "

Do you think being a Cassadine made life harder for Spencer in jail, made him more of a target? "I mean, it was a good thing in a way, because he had his uncles looking out for him; that aspect of being so connected was good. It's difficult for me to say if Spencer was targeted because he's a Cassadine or if it was just because he was



Lesser Of Two Evils: Spencer's stay at Spring Ridge (l.) was cushier than his stint at Pentonville.

CHRISTOPHER WILLARD/ABC; ABC

ABC • ABC • ABC

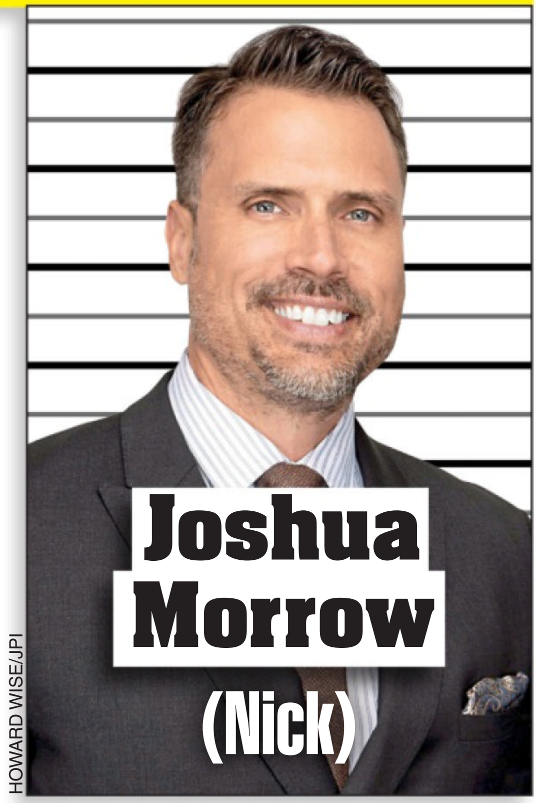
the new person in prison. We never really got into the minutiae of why Spencer had a target on his back, but you *could* assume it was because he was seen as this pampered rich kid."

Of all the people who dropped in on Spencer, his visit from Trina probably meant the most to him. You certainly gave the "Sprina" fans all the gooey, man-in-love facial expressions they could have asked for! "That was really, really fun to do, and of course, Tabyana [Ali, Trina] is a joy to work with. It was interesting to play because there was the joy of seeing her right off the bat, but then those scenes went in a completely different direction and they actually ended up going at each other's throats a little bit, which was cool. I thought that was great because Trina and Spencer are soul mates, but when you have a bond with someone that's that strong, you don't always see eye to eye on everything and it can create a lot of drama despite how much you love each other. That love, I think, propels a lot of tension."

Whose decision was it for Spencer to sport facial hair while at Pentonville? "I just grew it and I liked it and they let me keep it. I thought that it was a good representation of the headspace that Spencer was in, because I think when you're in a spot like that, you're probably dealing with depression. And for Spencer, certainly he was dealing with anxiety about not being on the outside, not being able to assist with all that's going on in Port Charles, not the least of which was The Hook killer. When you're in that headspace, you naturally start to take less care of yourself, and that was a big part of that choice. But [the facial hair] was a Pentonville-only thing."

Spencer was granted an early release from the sentence he was serving because Victor pulled some strings. Do you think he had mixed feelings about that? "Spencer got his freedom back, his agency back, and all the anxiety and depression that he was experiencing in Pentonville was soothed once he was on the outside. So, in that sense, it's positive. But Spencer, of course, doesn't like this never-ending sense of living under his family's thumb and in their shadow. He wants so desperately to break away from how twisted and horrible they are, but he can never seem to get fully out of their grasp, and I think that makes him very self-conscious and pessimistic about who he's destined to become."

YOUNG AND RESTLESS



Joshua Morrow

(Nick)

HOWARD WISE/JPI

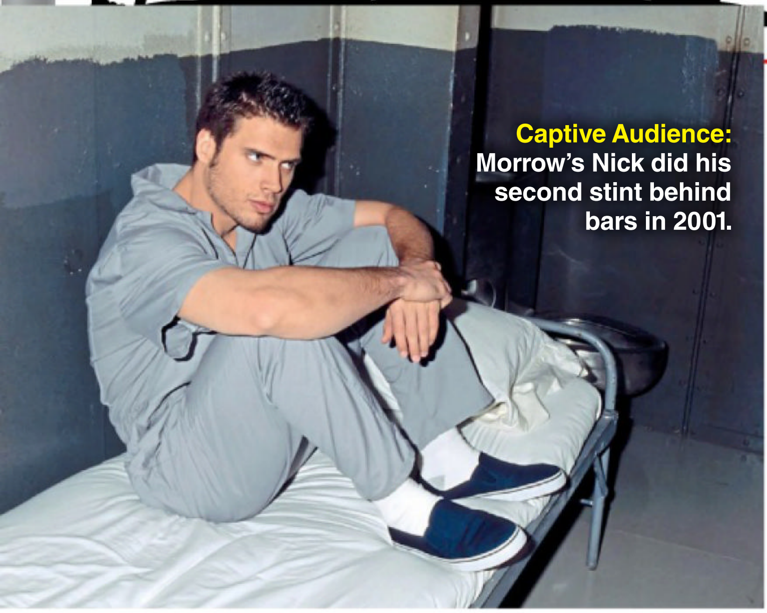
In 1995, Nick went to prison for the attempted murder of Matt Clark. Didn't Y&R go all-out with building the prison set? "Oh yeah, this was back in the heyday when the shows really tried to create environments big, and you felt it. When Nick went to prison, they built a prison cell with bunks where I slept with [cellmate] Shark. There was also a big, incredible laundry room, a common area and a visiting area. So, for that stage alone, they built four sets to make the prison atmosphere seem big and palpable for the audience. It was honestly my third favorite storyline."

Wasn't it also a two-story set? "I believe that was the laundry room because people could look down on the people doing laundry, which was Nick's job. That was one of the many times when Shark attacked Nick. We joked around and called it 'Pretty Boy Prison' because most of the prisoners were extremely good-looking and really in-shape men. [The set designers/decorators] made it look as dingy-looking as possible. They really took the time to make it as authentic as possible. Those sets were depressing but also spectacular at the same time because the show really invested in creating that world to show Nick's depression and struggle with it. It was awesome."

What was your reaction when you first saw the prison set, knowing this would be your soap home for a long while? "It was show-stopping. I had never seen anything like it at that point, because Nick's life revolved around being in the coffeehouse, Newman Enterprises and in a living room, so to see this set was pretty incredible."

At that time, you worked closely with actor David "Shark" Fralick, who played Larry "The Wartman" Warton. "Y&R did an incredible job of hiring Shark, who was about as intimidating an actor as I've ever been around. He was a tough guy and he certainly helped make everything uncomfortable. The show allowed him to create this menacing, terrorizing character who enjoyed making Nick's life miserable. In between scenes, Shark and I would have a great time and he's such a goofball, but, man, he completely immersed himself in creating an atmosphere that was truly terrifying for this younger dude who went to prison for the wrong reason."

What did your prison wear look like? "In jail, you're in jumpsuits, and in prison, you were in these kind of khaki pants with a beige collared shirt and when you weren't wearing the shirt you were in one of those white tank tops. For me, it was as awesome experience. I loved, loved, *loved* going to prison and it was also the very first time that [then-Executive Producer] Ed Scott let me grow facial hair. I fought him on that forever and he was like, 'No! Nick's clean-cut!' When I went to prison, I was like, 'Bro, he's not going to shave in prison,' and Ed was like, 'Okay, I agree with



Captive Audience: Morrow's Nick did his second stint behind bars in 2001.

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI

you.' I don't know if I've shaved since, unless it was for a wedding."

Did you know ahead of time how long Nick would be behind bars? "No, but that's when we took a long time telling stories. And I didn't want to know, so I didn't ask. I feel knowing anything about the future could color your performance and I didn't want that. I just knew [Nick] was gonna be in prison for a while and it was a blast. I got to work with The Shark every day and he made me laugh uncontrollably. Sharon Case [Sharon], Eric Braeden [Victor] and Heather Tom [ex-Victoria] would come and visit me and those were really good scenes."

Did you ever get tired of working on the same set? "No, I personally didn't want it to end. I was getting to do something I never got to do before. It was material I could sink my teeth into because [Nick] was filled with despair and sadness. I also had to play being terrified of The Wartman. Nick would put up a brave front for his family when they'd visit, but he was really intimidated by this man, so I never wanted the audience to think, 'Oh, he's gonna be fine, he's got this.' This guy was a really vicious dude and I wanted this level of fear surrounding Nick at all times."

Did you did ever feel strange that you weren't working with your usual scene partners? "No, because I got those scenes in when [Nick's] family members as well as Sharon would visit him. The bulk of my scenes were with Shark and the rest of the other inmates and I was very happy with that."

When Shark attacked Nick, Victor arrived and gave quite the beat-down. "I was counting down the days [until] that would happen. I would joke, 'How many more days until Eric comes in and saves my ass?' It predictably happened and it worked. I really wanted to see those two tangle. There was a camera in the washer or the dryer when Victor jammed Shark's head in there. It was an awesome shot!"

On a scale of one to 10, how uncomfortable was your mattress? "A 10. It was a piece of cardboard as far as thickness, but I never wanted to feel comfortable."

In 2001, Nick was behind bars again, this time after Matt Clark staged his death to look like Nick murdered him. "The character of Matt Clark, man, was an incredible foil for Nick. It was a really cool journey to go on as an actor. Eddie Cibrian [the original Matt] is still one of my very best friends and Rick Hearst [who succeeded Cibrian] is one of the best actors I've ever seen in my life. I mean, he was friggin' awesome. What a tremendously talented human that dude is."

Would you be up for doing another prison drama for Nick? "Absolutely. Like anybody on the show, we just want movement, we want things to do, we want to mix it up and share the stage with talented people. You want to tell different stories, you want your character to win, to lose, to suffer, to be happy and to be heartbroken. I want it all."

calendar

events

Who: DAYS's Matthew Ashford (Jack), Brandon Barash (Stefan), Mike Manning (Charlie) and Eric Martsolf (Brady), Robert Palmer Watkins (ex-Dillon, GH) and Erik Fellows (Damian, THE BAY)
What: HOTlanta Event
When: Sat.-Sun., March 11-12
Where: Marriott Atlanta Perimeter Center, 246 Perimeter Center Parkway NE, Atlanta, GA
How: Various ticket packages, including sponsorships, can be purchased at starstruckfanevents.com.

Who: GH's Eden McCoy (Josslyn) and Laura Wright (Carly)
What: Private Dinner
When: Thurs., Apr. 13
Where: Astoria, NY; location given to ticketholders.
How: To order tickets or for more information, please call 718-728-8581.

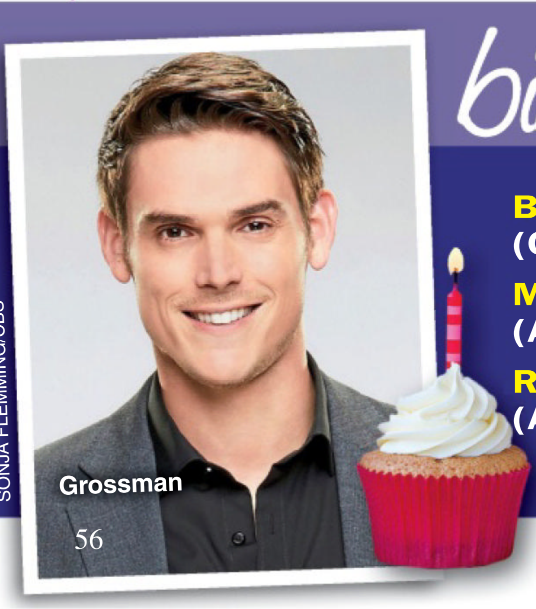
Who: GH's Cynthia Watros (Nina) and Maura West (Ava)
What: Personal Appearance
When: Sat., Apr. 15
Where: Stress Factory, 90 Church Street, New Brunswick, NJ
How: Tickets are $99 for VIP and $49 for general admission and can be purchased at coastalentertainment.com/events.

Iron Men: Meet DAYS's Eric Martsolf (Brady, l.) and Carson Boatman (Johnny) in May.

MICHAEL MATTES/SHUTTERSTOCK

Who: DAYS's Carson Boatman (Johnny), Patrika Darbo (Nancy), Martsolf, Stacy Haiduk (Kristen), Kyle Lowder (Rex), Manning and Jordi Vilasuso (ex-Dario), and THE BAY's Kristos Andrews (Pete) and Fellows
What: Marvel Madness — The Avengers Event
When: Sat.-Sun., May 20-21
Where: Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club, 7650 Legacy Boulevard, Lakewood Ranch, FL
How: Saturday VIP Party, 7:30-10:30 p.m. and Sunday Fundraiser Show, 10:00 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. For ticket prices and more information, call Alice at 941-518-3906 or email aaalice1948@aol.com.

birthdays



Grossman

SONJA FLEMMING/CBS

Bonnie Burroughs (Gladys, GH) 2/3

Mark Grossman (Adam, Y&R) 2/3

Risa Dorken (Amy, GH) 2/4

Disney
MICKEY AND FRIENDS
Not Available In Any Store!
Lights up!
MINNIE'S BAKERY
GINGERBREAD
COOKIE SALE
GOOFY'S GIFT WRAPPING
MICKEY'S Toy Workshop
Disney

"Very Merry Holiday" Village

◄ Issue Three
"Goofy's Gift Wrapping" and included Goofy Figurine

Issue Two ▲
"Minnie's Bakery" and included Minnie Mouse Figurine

Issue One ▲
"Mickey's Toy Workshop" and included Mickey Mouse as "Santa" Figurine

Buildings measure up to 5.5" H x 4.75" L x 4" W. Christmas tree measures 5" H x 3.75" W
Figurines measure up to 3.25" H. Artist's rendition. Fine collectible. Not intended for children under 14.

Welcome to the warm lights and enchanting delights of *Disney Mickey & Friends "Very Merry Holiday" Village*, available ONLY from Hawthorne Village—an official Disney licensee. All of your favorite Disney friends are in this delightful collection, which includes warmly illuminated buildings and Christmas tree, all fully-sculpted and meticulously hand-painted. cast and hand-painted.

ORDER TODAY AT BRADFORDEXCHANGE.COM

© Disney ©Hawthorne Village 14-02261-001-DIM1H22

The Bradford Exchange

9210 Maryland Street, Niles, IL 60714-1322

Yes! Please enter my order for the *Disney Mickey & Friends "Very merry Holiday" Village* collection, beginning with Shipment One, "Mickey's Toy Workshop" and FREE Mickey Mouse as "Santa" figurine. I need **SEND NO MONEY NOW.** I will be billed the first of three easy payments of $23.33 each* before shipment. Subsequent issues will be billed at the same price and sent about every other month. I can cancel at any time.

*Plus a total of $11.99 shipping and service - see bradfordexchange.com.
All sales are subject to acceptance and product availability. Allow 4-6 weeks after initial payment for shipment.

Where Passion Becomes Art

Limited Time Offer—Please Respond Promptly

Signature
Mrs. Mr. Ms.
Name (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)
Address Apt. No.
City State Zip
Email

918264-E97801

bold and beautiful

NEEDS AND WANTS

Sheila panics when Bill tells Brooke that she's right — he deserves to be with a good person. Brooke then asks Bill if he is ready to turn Sheila in. Sheila begs him not to do it. Brooke is blindsided when Bill laments about Brooke and Katie's rejection of him, then states that Sheila is what he needs.

PAIRED OFF

Thomas and Paris, who are now roommates, enjoy each other's company at her place. Paris reveals to Thomas that he doesn't have to justify his actions to her and that she knows his heart is in the right place. The reviews for the first Hope For The Future line without Thomas's designs come in; Thomas is ecstatic when they're negative. Thomas anxiously awaits a call from Steffy or Hope, asking him back to save the day and the line. The conversation turns to Douglas. Thomas expresses to Paris how much he misses his son.

OWN IT

Hope watches with pride as Deacon steps into his light as the new owner of Il Giardino. Hope's excitement fades as she explains to her dad how Sheila is no longer in prison and is now in a romantic relationship with Bill. Avoiding any discussion of his involvement with Sheila, Deacon notes that Sheila must be using Bill to get what she wants. Once alone, Deacon smiles to himself that Sheila got herself free.

flashback to 2005

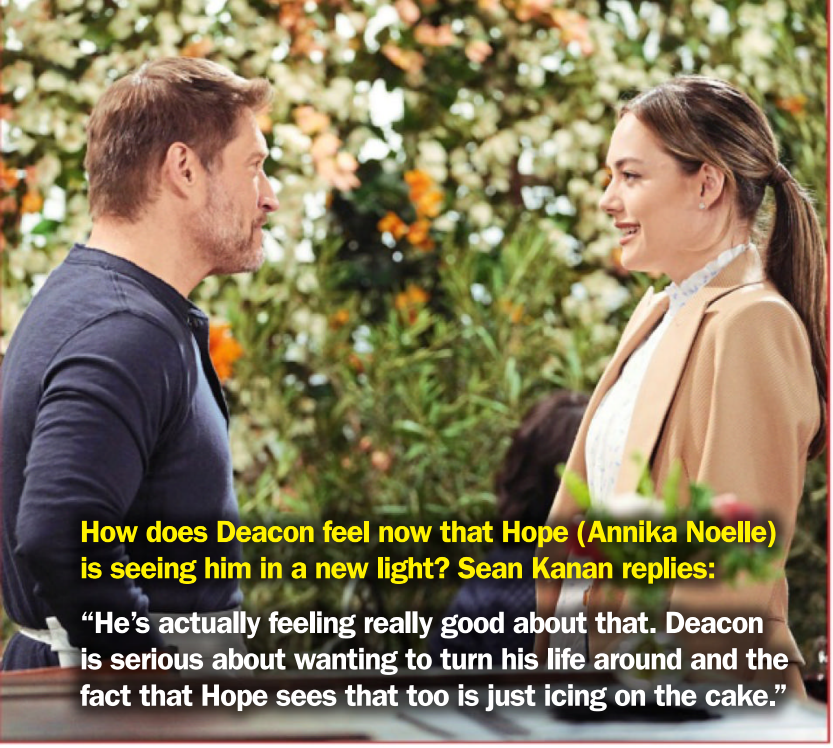
Sketch Artist: Thomas's (then-Drew Tyler Bell) first teen-themed fashion show for Spectra was an overwhelming success, much to the delight of wife Gaby (Shanelle Workman).

BRIAN LOWE/JPI

READ THE REVIEWS

Steffy and Hope wait at Forrester Creations to read the press reviews on the new Hope For The Future line that Eric and Zende created. Eric and Zende compliment one another as they wonder how their designs will be received.

Steffy confesses to Hope that she is conflicted by Thomas as he is her brother, and she loves him, but his actions are abhorrent. Hope asks if Thomas has been in touch; Steffy doesn't appreciate the question. Hope reflects on the reasons that she thought Thomas was a great



How does Deacon feel now that Hope (Annika Noelle) is seeing him in a new light? Sean Kanan replies:

"He's actually feeling really good about that. Deacon is serious about wanting to turn his life around and the fact that Hope sees that too is just icing on the cake."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Katie irks Sheila.
- Carter is shocked by Katie's revelation.
- Carter intervenes in an argument between Katie and Sheila.

designer. Eric and Zende enter the room, and Hope mentions that Paris is running late. As the group is gathered, the first review comes in. Hope tries to rally the team when they receive negative reviews of their new line.

GOOD-BYE KISS

Sheila visits Deacon at Il Giardino, where they discuss how clever Sheila is. Deacon gives Sheila props for playing Mike Guthrie, then asks what her angle is with Bill. Deacon is disappointed when Sheila insists that she loves Bill. He wonders when it started since she was living with Deacon for months prior to connecting with Bill. Sheila insists that she didn't use Deacon and still cares for him. Deacon gives Sheila one last passionate kiss.

RETURN ENGAGEMENT?

Thomas confidently strides into Forrester with his portfolio under his arm. Steffy is not happy to see him. Thomas asks Steffy to reconsider rehiring him at Forrester and pleads his case. Paris, meanwhile, asks Hope if Thomas would be allowed back on the team. Hope notes that's for Steffy and Ridge to decide.

DAD TIDINGS

Finn spends time playing with Douglas and Kelly. Liam arrives at Finn's, and the two discuss parenthood and Thomas's relationship with Douglas moving forward.

COMPANY MAN

Hope and Steffy discuss Thomas's request to rejoin the company. Charlie finds Thomas at Forrester and tells him he must leave the premises immediately.

SEE YA!

Sheila runs into Finn at Il Giardino. Finn reminds Sheila that she is not welcome in their lives and that there will be no second chance.

TRY, TRY AGAIN

Katie visits Bill, telling him she's there because she worries about him. When Bill questions why Katie feels he's no longer in control of himself, Katie replies that she will save him, and apologizes for hurting him. She asks if her rejection pushed him to Sheila. ☐

Executive Producer/ Head Writer: Bradley Bell

days of our lives

TURNING POINTS

Johnny and Chanel bond over Marlena's situation. Allie comes upon them about to kiss. Before they can hash it out, Sarah reveals that Marlena is dead.... When she calms down, Allie asks Chanel if she's still attracted to Johnny. Chanel counters by asking if Allie is attracted to Alex. They fight; Allie leaves and runs into Alex.... Johnny comes by to see Wendy but finds Chanel. Johnny says he will talk to Allie about the near-buss. As Chanel admits that she wanted to kiss Johnny as much as he wanted to kiss her, Alex tells Allie to go patch things up with Chanel. Later, Johnny and Chanel agree that neither wants to act on their lingering attraction and come together in a platonic hug, which Allie walks in to witness.

UP ON THE ROOF

Marlena insists to John that she wants to go home; instead, he takes her up to the hospital rooftop, where Johnny and Chanel have decorated a romantic setting. John and Marlena snuggle up and watch a slideshow from their life together. After it ends, John looks over at Marlena and is devastated to realize she's gone. John rushes her down from the rooftop to Sarah, who is helpless to revive her. Eric, then Belle, say their good-byes. Once Marlena is left alone, her soul rises from her body and she enters heaven, where she encounters Susan.

TRUTH BE TOLD

Kristen is escorted away by the police; Brady tries to explain to Rachel that her mother is going to prison. Rachel is upset, and later has a major meltdown when she finds Brady seeking comfort in Chloe's arms. After, Chloe sadly tells Brady it's one more sign that they shouldn't be together.

Stefan and EJ are playing a game of chess when Kristen calls from the station. She demands EJ help her out, or she'll tell Stefan that EJ kept quiet about his brainwashing. Tired of the blackmail, EJ reveals the truth to Stefan, much to Kristen's dismay. EJ apologizes to Stefan, who agrees to forgive him as long as he's made co-CEO. EJ agrees and leaves to get the ball rolling. Stefan, meanwhile, plots revenge on his brother.

flashback to 2004

Bench Press: A presumed-dead Marlena (Deidre Hall, r.) was surprised to wake up in "Melaswen" and discover Alice (Frances Reid) alive and well.

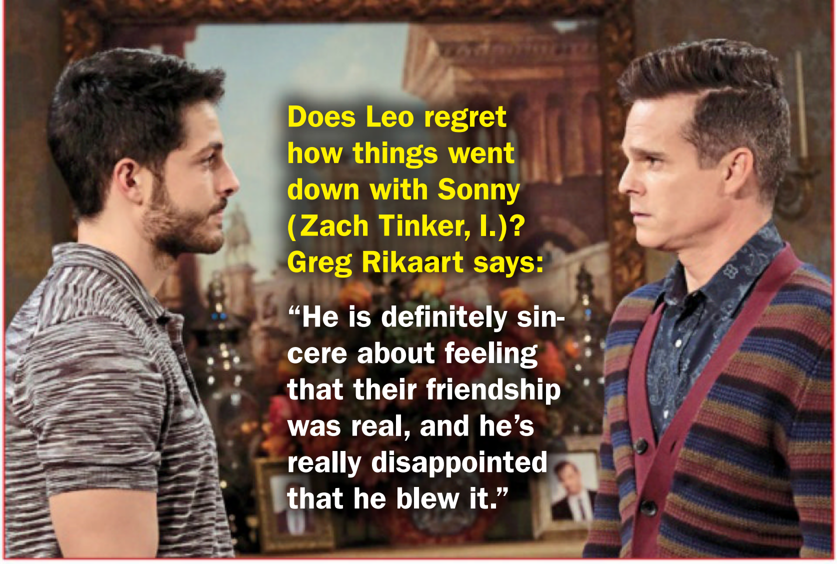
PAUL SKIPPER/JPI

GET SET

Will gets a call from Hollywood telling him that his project got the greenlight and he needs to be on set in New Zealand. Though they're still working through what happened with Leo, Sonny assures Will that their love can bridge the distance. Later, they learn of Marlena's passing.

DEVIL IN DISGUISE?

Susan welcomes Marlena to heaven. Marlena reels, unaware she'd passed, but



Does Leo regret how things went down with Sonny (Zach Tinker, l.)? Greg Rikaart says:

"He is definitely sincere about feeling that their friendship was real, and he's really disappointed that he blew it."

XJ JOHNSON/JPI

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Xander and Leo face off.
- Stefan is happy to get a call from Vivian.
- Chad comforts Jack about Gwen.

Susan helps her acclimate to her new reality. Marlena asks about Kate and Kayla, and Susan is vague, and later, unbeknownst to Marlena, Susan's eyes turn red with a devilish glow.

NOW HEAR THIS

Alex leaves Stephanie a message, but she ignores it.... Stephanie gets a visit from Paulina, who hires her in the fight against Sloan.... A conflicted Stephanie finally plays Alex's message.

APOLOGY TOURS

Johnny runs into Wendy and Tripp, who is reeling from a visit with Ava in which she hallucinated that he was Charlie. As Wendy and Tripp offer their sympathies, Johnny lashes out at Tripp over Ava's role in Susan's death. The men come to blows. Wendy apologizes to Gabi for her part in keeping Li's secret about Stefan. Gabi reluctantly accepts Wendy's apology.

Johnny says he's sorry to Tripp about their fight. Tripp accepts his apology. Later, Wendy comforts Tripp over Ava.

FIRE POWER

EJ fires Li from DiMera. When Li threatens to tell Stefan the truth, EJ counters that Stefan already knows, and that Li will learn what happens when you cross a DiMera.

EJ returns home and announces to Stefan that he just fired Li. While EJ deals with the paperwork to make Stefan co-CEO, Stefan pours a vial of an unknown liquid in EJ's drink. Before Stefan can give it to EJ, Gabi arrives and knocks Stefan out. She's forced to hide his body when EJ enters. She covers, then hides Stefan in the secret room. When Stefan regains consciousness, she reveals her plan to force him to undergo deprogramming. Later, Gabi calls Li with the hope that he can lead her to Rolf.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Eric runs into Nicole, who offers her condolences about Marlena and a hug. They are interrupted by Sloan, who announces she's there to return Eric's phone ... which he left in her bed. Nicole blasts Sloan and the women exchange slaps. Nicole then slams Eric for debasing himself with such a horrible woman and storms off. After, Belle and Paulina come upon them, and get into it with Sloan over the civil suit she filed.

Nicole gets comfort from EJ, who unwittingly offers her the drink that Stefan spiked. As the drug takes its effect, Nicole becomes unsteady on her feet and less inhibited. Later, Nicole declares that Sloan can have Eric, and she is happy to have EJ as she pulls him into a hot kiss!

Executive Producer: Ken Corday
Head Writer: Ron Carlivati

general hospital

TO FORGIVE, DIVINE

Carly tries to make amends with Michael and Willow. Willow is immediately forgiving, but Michael isn't ready to patch things up with his mom. Willow pleads with Sonny to repair his relationship with Michael. Sonny blasts Carly for withholding the truth from Nina and Willow, and she defends herself when he accuses her of wanting Nina to suffer. Nina briefs Austin and Liesl on her discovery that Willow is her daughter. Her aunt advises her to focus on Willow, not revenge. Michael blows up at Carly, but acknowledges he needs her in his life. They embrace.

WHAT LIES BENEATH

In Paris, Anna meets Valentin's contact, Renee, who shares a history with Val. Val assures Anna that he only has eyes for her. Renee secretly confers with Victor's henchman, Gavin, then offers to lead Anna and Val through the catacombs. They find Lucy, who is gagged and tied to a wall.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Obrecht is dismayed to learn that Esme is no longer at G.H. At Spring Ridge, Heather tries to bond with Esme, who becomes suspicious of her, but Esme's trust in Heather deepens when Heather rescues her from an agitated inmate. Sam and Dante show up; Dante tells Heather that she has one week to get useful information out of Ryan. Meanwhile, Sam tries to jog Esme's memories of Maggie, but is unsuccessful. Heather panics when she learns Maggie may know something about Esme's father.

BABY ON BOARD

Ava agrees to help Spencer with his pursuit of custody of Esme's baby. Victor shocks Nikolas by revealing he negotiated the terms of Nik's divorce from Ava behind Nik's back — and signed away Spoon Island to her. Later, Nik asks Laura to support his bid for custody of the baby. She reveals that Esme thinks Spencer is the child's father and objects to Nik's plan to cut Esme out of the baby's life, reminding him of their own mother/son origins. Spencer briefs Sonny on his plans to raise Nik and Esme's baby; Sonny presses his nephew about whether he's really ready to take on the responsibility.

flashback to 1996

Mother And Child Reunion: Laura (Genie Francis) reunited with Nikolas (then-Tyler Christopher), the son she'd abandoned on Cassadine Island, when he arrived in Port Charles as a teenager.

CATHY BLAIVAS/ABC

Why does Cameron agree not to tell Sonny about Dex? William Lipton says:

"He's a caring person, and remnants of his love for Josslyn [Eden McCoy] influence his decision."

TROY HARVEY/ABC

SECOND OPINION

Marshall admits to Portia and Curtis that he's scared to find out he may have been misdiagnosed and therefore stayed away from his family for no good reason. Curtis encourages him to get retested.

OUR LITTLE SECRET

Spencer confronts Joss about breaking up with Cameron and accuses her of not being honest with Cam. Cam wonders if he and Joss can salvage their friendship. Joss frets to Dex about lying to Cam and they make love. A shirtless Dex then opens the door to Cam, who is livid when he realizes Joss has been sleeping with Dex. Joss persuades him not to tell anyone that she's involved with Dex. Dex goes to see Sonny and reveals that he was with Joss the night Britt was attacked, then took Joss back to his place. Dex calls Joss to report that Sonny believes nothing happened between them, but Sonny makes a call that makes it clear he has a problem with Dex.

MOTHER LOAD

Finn and Liz explain their split to Violet. Carolyn shows up; Liz rebuffs her efforts to mend their rift. Carolyn tells Liz she's staying at the Metro Court if Liz wants to talk; Liz seeks out Laura, who encourages her to give her mother a second chance. Carolyn pays a visit to Nik, who asks her to manipulate Esme to make sure she doesn't recover her memories. Carolyn walks out on him.

ENEMY TERRITORY

Austin and Ava catch up on the changes in their lives. Mason makes more demands of Austin, who refuses to comply. Austin becomes menacing when Mason threatens Maxie's kids. Ava chases Mason away, and she and Austin find common ground in belonging to dangerous families. Mason glares at Ava from afar. ☐

WHAT WILL HAPPEN

- Ava stakes her claim.
- Laura delivers bad news.
- Willow has a big decision to make.

Executive Producer:
Frank Valentini
Co-Head Writers:
Chris Van Etten and Dan O'Connor

young *and* restless

WHAT A STEAL

Jack informs Nikki that Jeremy Stark stole her necklace from the Newman apartment in Chicago. Meanwhile, Chance surmises to Sharon that the burglary case against Stark seems a little too convenient.

At the Abbott manse, Chance shares his suspicions that Jack may have manipulated Stark's arrest. After Chance leaves, Diane tells Jack that with Stark out of the picture she feels she has a future again. They kiss and make love. Later, Diane suggests to Jack that they take things slow.

Chance tells Sharon that his conversation with Jack reinforced his doubts about being in law enforcement.

HONOR BOUND

At the Grand Phoenix, Lauren prepares to be presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Fashion. Lauren and Michael are thrilled when Fen shows up for the celebration. After Kevin, Chloe and Gloria join in, Lauren recounts her exciting experiences in her life and career. Michael vows to his wife to always love, honor and cherish her.

RETURN AGAIN

At Jabot, Adam warns Summer that Victor is using Kyle to get what he wants. Later, Kyle tells Victor he expects a reward for helping to bring Adam back to Newman Enterprises.

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

After some prodding from Nick, Sally reveals that she's pregnant.... Victor tells Nick that he hopes Adam won't be at Jabot much longer.... Nick warns his dad that he and Sally are becoming more serious, and urges Victor to leave her alone.

BUSY BEES

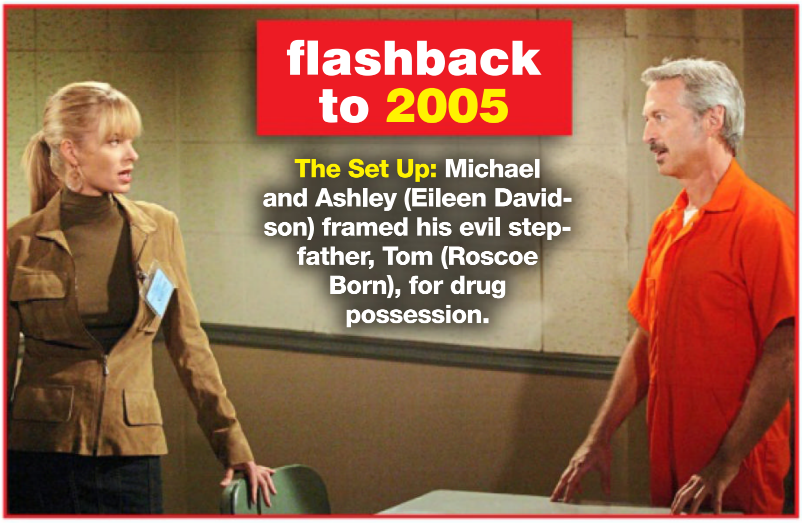
Nikki tells Victoria that she believes Jack and Diane are responsible for the theft of her necklace. Victoria predicts the new family dynamic with Chelsea, Connor and Johnny won't end well.

THE COMPANIES THEY KEEP

Audra tells Sharon about her new position as Newman Media's COO, which means she'll be staying in Genoa City. Later, Audra sets up a last-minute business meeting, so Nate calls Elena to postpone their plans.

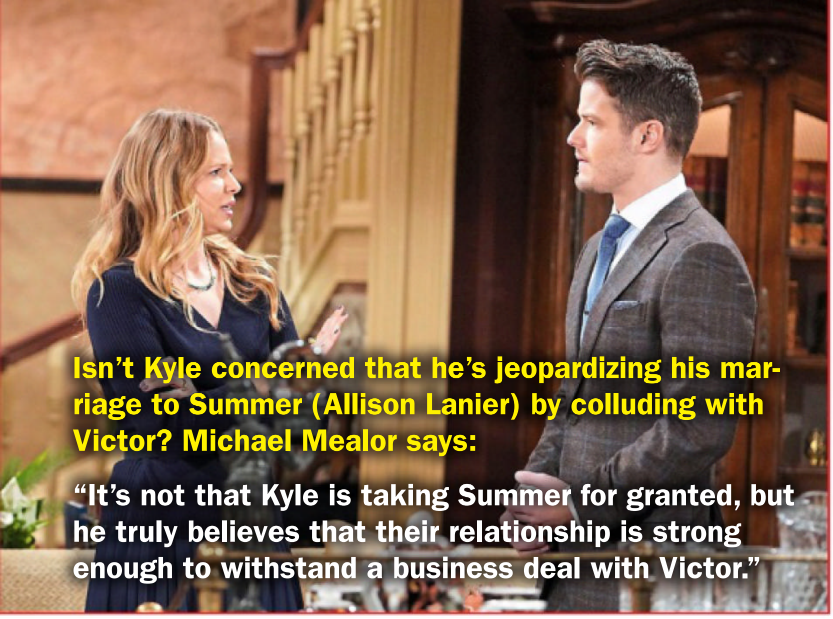
Kyle tells Summer that he wants to resume control of the textile factories that used to belong to Jabot that Newman now owns. Kyle reveals that Victor is making the deal in exchange for Kyle's help to remove Adam from Jabot. On a video call with Jill, Victor

flashback to 2005



The Set Up: Michael and Ashley (Eileen Davidson) framed his evil stepfather, Tom (Roscoe Born), for drug possession.

AARON MONTGOMERY/JPI



Isn't Kyle concerned that he's jeopardizing his marriage to Summer (Allison Lanier) by colluding with Victor? Michael Mealor says:

"It's not that Kyle is taking Summer for granted, but he truly believes that their relationship is strong enough to withstand a business deal with Victor."

HOWARD WISE/JPI

brings up her upcoming business meeting with Sally.

TUCKER PUNCH

At the coffeehouse, Victoria taunts Tucker about Ashley rejecting him. After Vicky encourages Tucker to leave town, he warns she'll be blindsided if he comes after Newman Enterprises.

A WINTERS TALE

Devon informs Lily that he's not interested in Jill buying him out of the company. Later, Abby asks Devon if he's ready for a court battle to retake control of Hamilton-Winters.

Chelsea suggests to Billy that they create a mental health podcast. He likes the idea of them being a team again. Later, Billy expresses his hope to Lily that she figures things out at Chancellor-Winters; she also wishes him well.

SPHERE FACTOR

Daniel implies to his mom that Omega Sphere may be in jeopardy with Chancellor-Winters; Phyllis suggests they have a fallback plan. At Phyllis's probing, Lily confirms that Omega Sphere is on hold.

When Tucker overhears Phyllis calling Nate to pitch Omega Sphere, Tucker urges her to speak with him about Daniel's project.... Sally is disappointed when Jill cancels their business meeting.... At Newman Media, Phyllis pitches Daniel's gaming platform to Nate and Audra.... Tucker offers his help to Daniel with achieving his goals for Omega Sphere.... In front of Lily at Crimson Lights, Nate tells Daniel that he wants to hear more about Omega Sphere.... Billy lashes out at Nate for hiring Audra.... Tucker lets Phyllis know that he pitched himself to Daniel as a backer for his project.... Daniel fumes at Phyllis for shopping his idea around behind his back and he now questions why he hired her.

HAVING HIS PHYL

Jack and Diane inform Kyle and Summer that they have become romantically involved. After, Diane expresses concern to Jack that Kyle isn't pleased about it. Jack suggests giving their son time to process it. Meanwhile, Summer urges Kyle not to get involved with Victor's plans for Adam. Kyle lies to Summer after he receives a text from Victor wanting to meet. ☐

Executive Producer/ Head Writer:
Josh Griffith

SUDOKU ANSWERS

5	9	4	2	3	8	6	7	1
2	6	8	7	1	5	9	4	3
7	3	1	9	6	4	8	2	5
3	8	2	1	5	6	4	9	7
1	4	9	8	7	3	5	6	2
6	5	7	4	2	9	3	1	8
9	1	3	5	4	2	7	8	6
4	7	5	6	8	1	2	3	9
8	2	6	3	9	7	1	5	4

ask us

we've got the answers

Spook-tacular: GUIDING LIGHT alum Michael O'Leary (ex-Rick) appeared in *Halloween Ends* with Jamie Lee Curtis.

Q **Now that I have Peacock to watch DAYS, I just finally streamed *Halloween Ends* and am I wrong or did I see Rick from GUIDING LIGHT in it? I swear it was him. Thank you. I love your magazine!**

Meg B., in CT

A Yes, that was Michael O'Leary playing Dr. Mathis in the Jamie Lee Curtis film. The actor tweeted a photo with Curtis, noting, " 'Halloween Ends' Official Premieres tonight!! What a thrill to play 'Doctor Mathis' and be a part of this iconic franchise! 'Jaime Lee Curtis' ! You are an inspiration to all!"

Q **I have a bet going with my mother. I believe there has been a Nicholas on Y&R, DAYS and GH (as Nikolas) but not on B&B because Nick, played by Jack Wagner, was actually a Dominick. We do have a dinner riding on this so please let us know. Thank you.**

Katie H., via email

A While you are correct about there being Nicks spanning three soaps, there actually was a Nick on B&B. Nicholas "Nick" Preston was an early paramour of Donna Logan who was portrayed by Clyde Hayes from 1988-89.

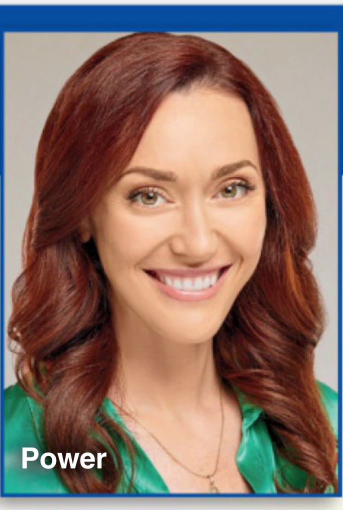
Q **Why don't we ever hear about Dina's son Marc Mergeron on Y&R? I remember when he was on the show briefly in the '80s and was a very handsome Frenchman.**

A.H., via email

twin peek

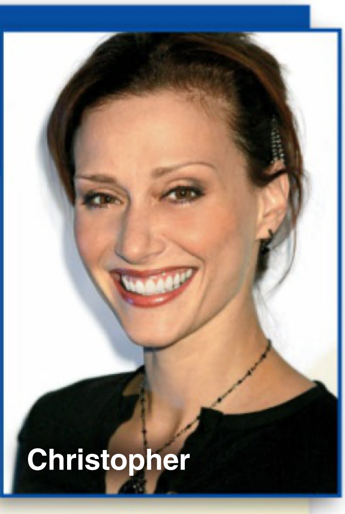
Robin Christopher (ex-Skye, GH et al) looks like Sarah Power (Hallmark's Abby in GOOD WITCH, NANTUCKET NOEL). Please show these lovely ladies side by side. Thank you.

Helen S., Seattle, WA



HALLMARK MEDIA

Power



COLIN KNIGHT/JPI

Christopher

A Marc wasn't Dina's biological son, rather her stepson via her marriage to his father, Marcel Mergeron. Dina and Marc never got along, so there was no love lost when he left Genoa City in 1988.

Q **On GH, how did Britt get the last name Westbourne?**

Marcy E., Wayne, NJ

A Britt's last name comes from her mother, who was born Liesl Westbourne.

TWITTER/O'LEARY

Q **Loved the "Britch Fest" birthday party for Britt on GH! Can you tell me who was playing the drag queen emcee? Loved their energy!**

T.M., via email

A The emcee was played by L.A.-based drag queen Annie Biotixx.

Q **I was watching BLUE BLOODS on January 6 and was so excited to see Viki from ONE LIFE TO LIVE. I have missed that actress so much. Has she been on this show before? I hope she will be on more.**

June B., via email

A That was Erika Slezak's (ex-Viki, OLTL) second time on the CBS series. She first played Donna Duvall, a Reagan family neighbor, in the 2019 episode titled "Identity".

Got a question or "Twin Peeks" suggestion for the staff of *Soap Opera Digest*?

Please send all Ask Us requests to **SODask@soapoperadigest.com**. Or if you prefer snail mail, send correspondence to: ***Soap Opera Digest***

270 Sylvan Avenue, Suite 2220
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

Due to the volume of mail received, we regret that we cannot answer your letters personally. All correspondence is the sole property of *Soap Opera Digest*. The letters have been edited, where appropriate, for purposes of clarity or space.

Senior Vice President,
Group Publisher
NEIL GOLDSTEIN

Associate Publisher
MEGAN PICKERELLI

Associate Publisher
SHELLEY FARIELLO

Business Manager
JAIME RABB

Direct Response
Advertising Director
LORELIS MARTE
(646) 521-2802

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES: For any problems or questions, including duplicate, late or missing issues, please email sodcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com or send the mailing label from your magazine with the details of the problem to the P.O. box below. For change of address, please send the mailing label from your magazine along with your new address/name to the P.O. box below. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for changes to be made. P.O. Box 37132, Boone, IA 50037-0132.

REPRINTS: Contact Wright's Media @ 877.652.5295 (281.419.5725 outside the U.S. and Canada) to purchase quality custom reprints or e-prints of articles appearing in this publication.

Please Recycle This Magazine
Remove Inserts or Samples Before Recycling

All material submitted without restrictions become the sole property of a360 Media and shall constitute a grant to a360 Media to use name, likeness, story, and all other information submitted and the story of the person submitting the same for any and all purposes. Soap Opera Digest is not responsible for returning unsolicited manuscripts, photographs, letters or other materials.

Occasionally, our subscriber list is made available to reputable firms offering goods and services we believe would be of interest to our readers. If you prefer to be excluded, please send your current address label with a note requesting to be excluded from these promotions to: Soap Opera Digest, P.O. Box 37132, Boone, IA 50037-0132.

SOUND OFF

What's on your mind?

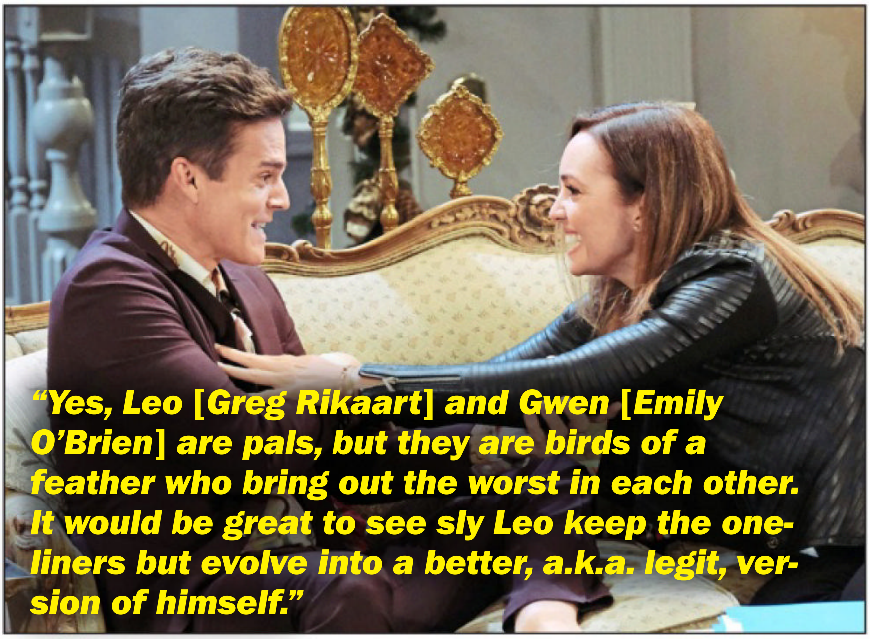
LOVING LEO

A strange thing happened on DAYS during Leo's stay at the Kiriakis house. I saw genuine heart from Salem's king of quips. He served as a talk-to for lonely Sonny, who was missing his husband, and Sonny tried to help Leo search for a job online (epic fail!). Despite Leo's transgressions against Sonny, they put aside the past and became, well, friends. Until Will showed up and Leo got the heave-ho. Yes, Leo and Gwen are pals, but they are birds of a feather who bring out the worst in each other. It would be great to see sly Leo keep the one-liners but evolve into a better, a.k.a. legit, version of himself. He was rejected at Basic Black, but wouldn't that be just the perfect place for someone with his fashion sense? Hey, writers: Think of the possibilities! Salem needs to bring the funny.

M.K., via email

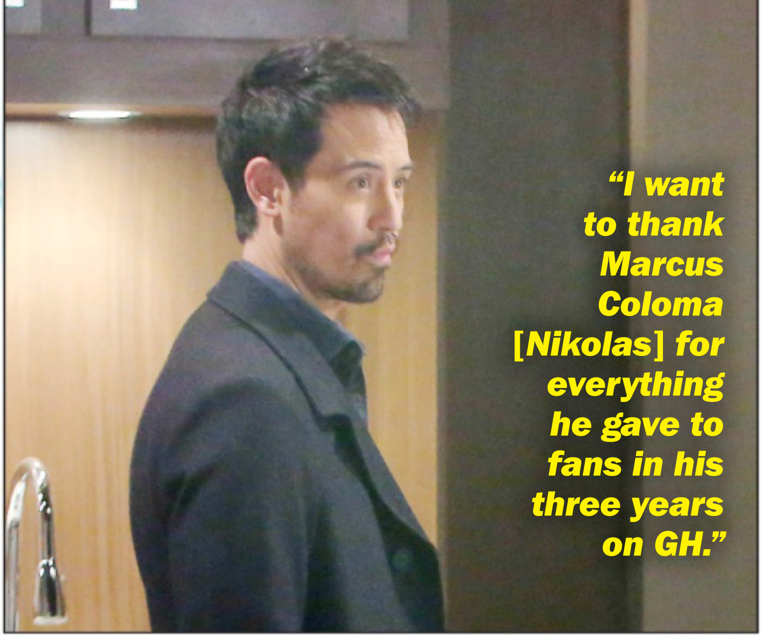
THERE OUGHTA BE A LAW

First of all, I am not a lawyer; however, I am familiar with some basic laws. The fact that B&B's Finn and Steffy would not testify against Sheila is not a reason that she would be set free. In fact, for such a serious crime as shooting two people, the state would step in and file charges! It would have been much more believable and entertaining if the judge announced at the end of the session, "Even though you two are unwilling to speak, the State has turned this case over to the L.A. District Attorney and will prosecute to the full extent of the law"! I would have loved to have seen the look on Bill's face at that point! Also, the men on this soap don't know how to speak or have any sort of conversation with their spouses. Liam sees Thomas kissing a mannequin (thinking it was Hope), and doesn't call out to Thomas and "Hope", doesn't step back and try to



"Yes, Leo [Greg Rikaart] and Gwen [Emily O'Brien] are pals, but they are birds of a feather who bring out the worst in each other. It would be great to see sly Leo keep the one-liners but evolve into a better, a.k.a. legit, version of himself."

PHOTOS: XJ JOHNSON/JPI



"I want to thank Marcus Coloma [Nikolas] for everything he gave to fans in his three years on GH."

call Hope, he simply drives to Steffy's and jumps in bed with her. Then Ridge can't ask his wife of 20-plus years (okay, so they were not consecutive years) about why she called CPS on Thomas? No, he runs to Taylor and jumps in bed with her. These men make all men look stupid and fickle!

Carolyn M., San Diego, CA

GO DIRECTLY TO JAIL

I have been watching both Y&R and B&B for most of my life, and let's just say it's a long time! How in the world can the writers of B&B justify the Bill/Sheila storyline? There is no way Bill was able to get into a judge's office and put in a camera or bribe one jail guard to turn on another jail guard to get what he wants for Sheila. This is so far-fetched. I know it's a soap, but come on! Sheila needs to serve her time. Hello, she's a murderer.

S.J., Gilroy, CA

MAN OF THE PEOPLE

I want to thank Marcus Coloma for everything he gave to fans in his three years on GH. Not only did he give us a handsome, dark, romantic and vulnerable Nikolas Cassadine, he also fully embraced supporting the show and his castmates. He made himself available for lots of interaction with fans in interviews, live events on social media, in-person events, podcasts and call-in shows. He obviously appreciated the show's fans and his co-workers. He brought us behind the scenes through fun videos with Maurice Bernard [Sonny], Kin Shriner [Scott] and other GH castmates. It was a huge disappointment to learn he would no longer be on the show. He's gained so many fans in these three years, and all of us will be following him in his many future roles. Of course, it would be great to hear he was back in the role of Nikolas! How about it, GH? Thank you, Marcus!

Rose Anne M., Germantown, MD

LIVE ON

I am so sad at the passing of the talented Sonya Eddy and have followed her portrayal of Epiphany Johnson on GH from the beginning as the mother of Stan, the "Spinelli" before Spinelli. I hope the writers honor Sonya's creation of this beloved character by recasting the part and letting her character live on. Epiphany was trying to get into medical school and had a budding relationship with Marshall. No one could replace Sonya, but let's honor her creation of "Epiphany" and let her character soar.

Helen S., Seattle, WA

NETWORK ADDRESSES

BOLD AND BEAUTIFUL/ YOUNG AND RESTLESS
c/o CBS-TV
7800 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036

DAYS OF OUR LIVES
3000 West Alameda Ave.,
Burbank, CA 91505

GENERAL HOSPITAL
c/o ABC-TV
4151 Prospect Ave.
Hollywood, CA 90027

MAILBAG

AROUND THE DIAL

"I was horrified to see GH's Trina suddenly have compassion for Esme because she has amnesia!" emails Nik W. "Not only did Esme drug Trina, and leave her for dead, but Esme then framed her for revenge porn and almost sent Trina to prison! Trina got kicked out of school because of Esme! It's very triggering to watch Black characters be written to have grace for those who would NEVER show it to them! And it happens across soaps constantly!" ... "I do not like the way B&B's Bill did all the deliberate things to get Sheila released from prison," fumes a viewer in Ohio. "I hope the writers change the direction this is going as Sheila belongs behind bars for all the trouble she has caused. I used to like Bill and wished he and Katie got back together, but now that this has happened, my opinion has changed."... Patti M. in Millinocket, ME, exclaims, "I just read the devil is coming back with Marlena, Kayla and Kate. Most of us never wanted to see the devil on DAYS again. Hopefully, by May sweeps, it is gone forever. And please do not break up Stephanie and Alex. Chad needs to be grieving for Abigail and when he is ready, either bring her back or pair him with someone else. We love Alex and Stephanie together!"

YOU SAID IT!

"The B&B writers seem to have forgotten the golden rule of storytelling: Show, don't tell! We heard Sheila and Bill discuss how they started their so-called romance, when we should have had scenes of Sheila following Bill out of the restaurant and onto the beach. After Carter and Paris's canceled wedding, Paris and Zende seemingly reunited, but it apparently happened off camera. A recap of what we didn't see is dull as dishwater."

— Pamela J., Noblesville, IN

Please send all correspondence for
Sound Off to this address:

Soap Opera Digest
270 Sylvan Avenue, Suite 2220
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

email: **SODsound@soapoperadigest.com**

All correspondence is the sole property of *Soap Opera Digest*. The opinions expressed therein do not reflect the opinions of *Soap Opera Digest*. The letters have been edited, where appropriate, for purposes of clarity or space. Please include your full name, address and daytime telephone number.

We Want To Help: For subscription customer service, email: sodcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com. Please include your name and address.

SOAP OPERA DIGEST (ISSN 0164-3584) February 6, 2023, Vol. 48, No. 6, is published weekly in the United States by a360 Media, LLC, 270 Sylvan Avenue, Suite 2220, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632. Copyright @ a360 Media, LLC 2023. All Rights Reserved. Periodical Postage Paid at New York, NY and additional mailing offices. Canada Post International Publications Mail Sale Agreement No. 40940528. Canadian B.N. 821377918RT0001. Reproductions without permission is strictly prohibited. Soap Opera Digest ®, incorporating Soap Opera News and Soap Opera Magazine, is a registered trademark owned by a360 Media, LLC. **U. S. POSTMASTER:** Send all UAA to CFS (See DMM 507.1.5.2); NON-POSTAL and MILITARY FACILITIES Send address changes to SOAP OPERA DIGEST, P.O. Box 37207, Boone, IA 50037-0207. **CANADA POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to a360 Media, LLC, PO Box 907 STN Main, Markham, ON L3P 0A7, Canada. Subscription rates in U.S. and Possessions: 1 year (52 issues) $120.00. In Canada $153.80 per year. All other foreign orders $187.60 per year (surface mail, payment in advance), U.S. funds only. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery of first issue. Mail subscription orders and correspondences to: Soap Opera Digest, P.O. Box 37207, Boone, IA 50037-0207. Enclose your latest address label with all correspondence. **SUBSCRIBERS:** If the postal service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within one year. From time to time we make our subscriber list available to companies who sell goods and services by mail that we believe would interest our readers. If you would rather not receive such mailings, please send your current mailing label to the address above. **Printed in the U.S.A.**

Magazine SHOP

Find these magazines and many more online!

www.magazineshop.us

- ● FOOD & RECIPES
- ● NUTRITION & DIET
- ● SPECIAL EDITIONS
- ● WOMEN'S INTEREST
- ● ENTERTAINMENT
- ● GAMES & PUZZLES

JON BON JOVI
HOW A KID FROM NEW JERSEY BECAME A ROCK 'N' ROLL LEGEND
Mini Mysteries
40 cases Can YOU crack them all?
CONNECT-THE-DOTS FOR ADULTS Unwind your mind as you connect 24,377 dots!
DOT DOT DOT
ADORABLE ANIMALS!
Connect and color in!
NOW WITH DOUBLE THE PUZZLES!
First for women
AIR FRYER SLIMDOWN
FREEDOM FROM TIREDNESS!
BEAUTIFUL FOR LESS!
Drop 20 lbs in 14 days
Breakthrough LIVER DETOX
BYE-BYE WORRIES!
FOOD to Love
HYDRATE • DETOX • HAVE GLOWING SKIN • INCREASE ENERGY & MORE!
ALL NEW!
Smoothies & SUPER JUICES
84 Refreshing Recipes
GET HEALTHY & FEEL FANTASTIC!
BOOST YOUR Metabolism Vitamins Antioxidants Fiber
Woman's World
WHITER TEETH
SAVE ON GAS
ALZHEIMER'S RISK PLUMMETS 70%
LOSE 30 LBS IN 2 WEEKS
IMMUNITY INSTA-BOOST
BREAK YOUR WORRY CYCLE
SLEEP DEEP
Ooey gooey delicious
Super supper sandwiches
World's Best Cross Word!
99 puzzles
BONUS
Take On the Go!
HARRY STYLES

Order your favorites today!

Scan to shop!

Open your camera app, focus on this code, and tap when the url pops up!

HOWARD WISE/JPI

TAKE FIVE

Susan Walters

(Diane, Y&R)

- *What posters were on the wall of your teenage bedroom?* "Luke [Bruce Boxleitner] from HOW THE WEST WAS WON, and Olga Korbut from the 1972 Olympics."

- *How do you procrastinate?* "Shopping online for cycling kits — jerseys and bib shorts."

- *What was your must-see TV show as a kid?* "PETTICOAT JUNCTION."

- *Did you have an imaginary friend growing up?* "I might as well because I have conversations with my dog, Oscar, all day and all night."

- *Finish this epitaph on your tombstone: She was pretty okay at...* "Mountain biking."

ADVERTISEMENT

GET soap OPERA digest TO GO!

soap OPERA digest

Special Section

You Voted!

THE GREATEST STORIES OF ALL TIME!

DAYS Marlena's Possession

GH Luke And Laura On The Run

LAURA AND ROBERT'S NEW MISSION

WILL JULIAN DESTROY ALEXIS'S FUTURE WITH NEIL?

HUGE GH SHAKE-UPS!

MUST-SEE CARLY/NELLE SHOWDOWN!

Shawn Christian

3 DAYS STARS RETURN!

Available on iPhone®, iPad®, Kindle Fire™, Nook™, Kobo™ and Android tablets and phones.

Available on the App Store

amazonkindle

nook Newsstand

GET IT ON Google play

MAGZTER DIGITAL MAGAZINE STORE TAP · READ · ENJOY

zinio™

Readly

Apple, the Apple logo, iPhone and iPad are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Kindle and Kindle Fire are trademarks of Amazon.com, Inc or its affiliates. NOOK is a registered trademark of barnesandnoble.com LLC or its affiliates. Google Play is a trademark of Google Inc.

“To you, it’s the perfect lift chair. To me, it’s the best sleep chair I’ve ever had.”

— J. Fitzgerald, VA

3 CHAIRS IN ONE:
SLEEP/RECLINE/LIFT

You can’t always lie down in bed and sleep. Heartburn, cardiac problems, hip or back aches – and dozens of other ailments and worries. Those are the nights you’d give anything for a comfortable chair to sleep in: one that reclines to exactly the right degree, raises your feet and legs just where you want them, supports your head and shoulders properly, and operates at the touch of a button.

Our Perfect Sleep Chair® does all that and more. More than a chair or recliner, it’s designed to provide total comfort. **Choose your preferred heat and massage settings, for hours of soothing relaxation.** Reading or watching TV? Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of settings. And best of all, it features a powerful lift mechanism that tilts the entire chair forward, making it easy to stand. You’ll love the other benefits, too. It helps with correct spinal alignment and promotes back pressure relief, to prevent back and muscle pain. The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort. Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. **It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage.**

White glove delivery included in shipping charge. Professionals will deliver the chair to the exact spot in your home where you want it, unpack it, inspect it, test it, position it, and even carry the packaging away! You get your choice of Luxurious and Lasting Miralux, Genuine Leather, stain and liquid repellent Duralux with the classic leather look, or plush MicroLux microfiber, all handcrafted in a variety of colors to fit any decor. **Call now!**

journey
perfect
sleep chair

1-888-865-6393

Please mention code 117721.

Because each Perfect Sleep Chair is a made-to-order bedding product it cannot be returned, but if it arrives damaged or defective, at our option we will repair it or replace it. © 2023 Journey Health and Lifestyle.

BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

46637